QUEENSLANDERS FACING HEART PROBLEMS AFTER LONG COVID: PAGE 2

The Chronicle

We're for you

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024 thechronicle.com.au $2.80

OFFICIAL TEAM PARTNER AUSTRALIA

‘HE’LL BE BACK’

Tom Nolan’s family holds strong after shock result

PAGES 5, 9, 32

STRONG SUPPORT: Tom’s brother-in-law Peter Levingston and sister Grace Levingston with their kids (from left) Freya, Hudson and Isabella joined with family, friends and supporters at the City Golf Club as Toowoomba MMA fighter Tom Nolan made his UFC debut. Picture: Kevin Farmer

ARISE QUEEN MARY

STORIES, P. 10-13

VAPE GANGS PREYING ON KIDS

STORY, P. 14-15

TIME TO TALK NUCLEAR: MP

Discussion on nation’s power options sought

Groom MP Garth Hamilton has called for a discussion on adding nuclear power to Australia’s energy mix. He suggested existing infrastructure within the Darling Downs, including Tarong Power Station, could be potential sites for a reactor “if it was the best option at the time”.

STORY, PAGE 6

SUBSCRIBE AND ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF BEING A CHRONICLE MEMBER

EPAPER

Read The Chronicle newspaper replica no matter where you are, when it's convenient to you on mobile or desktop

REWARDS

Enjoy special offers, competitions and giveaways with + Rewards, our member benefits program with an eligible subscription

UPDATES

Join our newsletter mailout for the latest Toowoomba news emailed to your inbox every morning and throughout the day as it happens

Index

NATION....16
WORLD....17
OPINION....18
TV....21
LIFESTYLE....22
PUZZLES....24
WEATHER....26
CLASSIFIEDS....27
SPORT....28

Follow us

ONLINE
thechronicle.com.au
FACEBOOK
@TheToowoombaChronicle
TWITTER
@the_chronicle

Contact us

MAIL
Level 1, 5 Keefe St,
Toowoomba, Qld, 4350
EMAIL
toowoomba@news.com.au
PHONE & SMS
General: 4690 9300
SMS: 0437 875 203
Missed papers: 1300 696 397
Subscriptions: 1300 696 397

GENERAL MANAGER
Erika Brayshaw, 4672 9921;
erika.brayshaw@news.com.au
EDITOR
Jordan Philp, 4690 9300;
jordanj.philp@news.com.au
DEPUTY EDITOR
William Hunter, 4690 9487;
william.hunter@news.com.au

Responsibility for election material in this newspaper is taken by Jordan Philp, Level 1, 5 Keefe St, Toowoomba. Published by Toowoomba Newspaper Pty Ltd, 109 Neil St, Toowoomba, Qld 4350. Printed by News Corp Australia, 54 Pioneer Road, Yandina.

SWIMMING SKILLS: Premier Steven Miles with his daughter Bridie, 9, at Cotton Tree Aquatic Centre in Maroochydore. Picture: Supplied by the Premier's Department/ Annette Dew

More families get swim vouchers

Matty Holdsworth

Hundreds of additional Queensland families are set to be afforded access to swimming lessons aimed at improving water safety among kids and reversing the state's concerning drowning statistics.

The state government's SwimStart program has been doubled under the new Steven Miles leadership through an additional $5 million injection.

The program is aimed at improving water safety for children under four and help address Queensland's drowning statistics.

According to the Royal Life Saving Australia's latest drowning report, 61 people in Queensland drowned between July 2022 and June 2023, with 10 per cent of those aged 0-4.

The program will deliver vouchers valued at up to $150 for swimming lessons with registered providers up to June 2025.

Nearly 1500 SwimStart vouchers have already been redeemed with about 180 providers registered across the state.

Premier Steven Miles said every Queensland parent knew the importance for kids to have water safety knowledge from an early age.

"My kids have grown up around pools and Queensland beaches, and it was so important to Kim (his wife) and I that they felt confident in the water," Mr Miles said.

"We know households are feeling national cost-of-living pressures, which is why we're doubling the amount of SwimStart vouchers available to families with young children."

The doubled investment follows The Courier-Mail's Save Our Schoolkids 2.0 campaign, which resulted in a government audit of swimming lessons and education in all state schools.

Little Snappers Swim School director Mai Dalle Cort has seen the impact of the vouchers first hand.

"SwimStart has had a very real impact on families where our schools are located," she said.

"Because of the program, more families are now able to access lessons, with close to 15 per cent of our client base using SwimStart vouchers.

"It has also enabled families to include siblings, where previously they have had to choose which child could have lessons because of household financial constraints."

Former Olympic gold medallist Brooke Hanson said every child should have the chance to learn lifesaving swimming skills to improve safety in, on and around water.

"As a mum, it was incredible to see my kids learning when they were six months old, being able to get to the side of the pool," Ms Hanson said.

Spike in Covid heart issues

Jackie Sinnerton

Queenslanders are flooding GPs practices with heart problems sparked by long Covid, the state's peak medical body has revealed.

Doctors are seeing more patients with myocarditis and pericarditis due to inflammation caused by the virus that can cause palpitations, chest pain or shortness of breath.

"We are now seeing the impact of long Covid which makes it clear that Queenslanders should be more aware of taking precautions. Prolonged symptoms can be very severe in some people," Australian Medical Association Queensland president Maria Boulton told The Courier-Mail.

"Of course healthcare workers would love to stop thinking about Covid and move on but long Covid can't be swept under the carpet," Dr Boulton said.

GP Bruce Willett and spokesman for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners said that he had seen an increase in people with heart palpitations, extreme fatigue and debilitating brain fog at his practice.

"My own wife had to see a cardiologist due to her own long Covid symptoms which had persisted for six months," he said.

"By the time she had all the tests the problem had passed.

"We generally consider a patient to be suffering from long Covid if they are having problems 12 weeks after a bout of the virus," Dr Willett said.

The GP said that the long Covid symptoms required a lot of investigations to rule out other illnesses.

"It takes a lot of tests and more than one visit to rule out other things," he said.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are both inflammatory conditions that affect the heart. While myocarditis is inflammation of the heart muscle, pericarditis is inflammation of the sack-like tissue layer that surrounds the heart.

Up to one in 10 people report symptoms of Covid-19 persisting for more than three months.

Two Covid-19 vaccination doses are associated with a 13 per cent to 47 per cent lower risk of symptoms persisting beyond four weeks

Last year the Australian government announced a $50m investment for research into long Covid. A parliamentary inquiry called for a single Covid-19 database and a research program into the condition.

The AMA's submission to the inquiry said that long Covid would have impacts on the entire health system and GPs on the front line would need appropriate resourcing to manage the expected increase in patients.

> "My own wife had to see a cardiologist due to her own long Covid symptoms which had persisted for six months.
>
> **Dr Bruce Willett**

The rollover at the BP service station.

Woman rolls car

Michael Nolan

An elderly woman was transported to Toowoomba Hospital as a precaution after she rolled a Toyota Corolla at the North Toowoomba BP service station.

It is understood the woman was entering the service station from North Street when she hit the kerb and rolled her vehicle, shortly before 10am on Saturday.

Several bystanders rushed to provide first aid while they waited for emergency services to arrive.

Queensland Fire and Rescue officers used hydraulic cutting equipment to remove the vehicle's roof while an officer crawled into the Corolla to comfort the woman.

Kitchener Street Station Officer Doug Maxwell said the woman's injuries were minor, but given her advanced age, all precautions were needed to ensure she was safely removed from the vehicle.

"We needed a large access point otherwise it would have been quite traumatic to pull her out," he said.

Station Officer Maxwell thanked the bystanders who rendered first aid.

"They did a terrific job, not only to reassure the woman but to make the area safe," he said.

Fire in roof

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services investigators will probe the cause of a fire in the ceiling of a Hodgson Vale home.

Multiple emergency services crews were called to an address near the intersection of Hodgson Vale Road and New England Highway about 11pm on Saturday. A QFES spokeswoman said they arrived to find smoke issuing from the roof of a single-storey weatherboard home.

The structure suffered only minor damage and firefighters had the scene under control in a short amount of time.

Teen's new legal team for murder accusation

Peta McEachern

A Toowoomba teenager accused of causing the death of photographer Robert Brown now has a new legal team.

Isaac Zane Cubby, 18, was charged with murder along with a raft of other charges in 2023, following the alleged robbery gone wrong in February.

Police claim Mr Brown was waiting for a taxi when he was allegedly pushed from behind by the teenager, who then stole the man's bag and fled in a stolen car.

Mr Brown later died in hospital after receiving a serious head injury during the fall.

MacDonald Law director Jag MacDonald formally withdrew his firm from the case at the Toowoomba Magistrates Court on Friday.

Solicitor Phil Stainton said Legal Aid Queensland would be taking the case on.

Mr Stainton said his office was still in the process of receiving all of the evidence, however noted Barrister Stephen Kissick had already reviewed the brief.

Magistrate Patricia Kirkman-Scroope said she would adjourn the matter to February 9 to allow time for Mr Cubby to have a conference with his new legal team.

Mr Cubby was remanded in custody.

The court will be provided with an update on the case on Friday, February 9.

Mr Cubby has not been required to enter any plea to the charge of murder or to some 25 other charges, some of which are related to the incident.

Photographer Robert Brown.

HOLIDAY FUN: Jimmy Graham with his sons Connor (left) and Hudson Graham at Cobb and Co Museum's Slot Car Racing activity. Picture: Kevin Farmer

Children test racing skills at Cobb and Co

Dozens of families rolled into Cobb and Co museum at the weekend for two days of high-speed racing action – albeit on the table top and not trackside.

As part of its school holiday program, the museum held a weekend of slot car racing where young people could test their skills and enjoy a taste of life in the fast lane.

There were eights sessions held across the two days.

The action will continue through this week with five activity zones set up though the Lindsay Street complex as part of the Fast and Furious Fun program.

Children can design their own race car and send it hurtling it down the ramp in the Race Car Zone, take to the skies with paper plane creations in the Flight Zone or design their own landsailing rover and see how far it can travel in the Challenge Zone

In the Robotics Zone, budding engineers can immerse themselves in the world of technology and automation, while others can channel their eco-friendly spirits by crafting futuristic transportation using recycled materials in the Design Zone.

Bookings are required.

For more pictures, turn to Page 8.

Family trapped in lift in CBD

Emergency services worked to free a woman and three small children who were trapped in a lift at the Lincraft store in the heart of Toowoomba's CBD yesterday.

Firefighters were called to the CBD building shortly after 11.45am on Sunday.

Anzac Street Station Officer Shane Brown said the lift had stalled as a result of a power failure.

"There was a mum and three children in the elevator, and it was her husband who called it in," he said.

"We found the power box and one of the fuses had tripped.

"We put that back on, and thankfully the lift opened up," he said.

Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics were waiting nearby to check over the family.

There were no injuries and no one required a trip to hospital.

All up they were trapped for about 30 minutes.

"Mum and the three little children were very happy to get out," SO Brown said.

"It was very hot in there because there was no ventilation," the fire officer said.

The children were aged from one to five years old.

E-scooter rider dies in hospital

Vishaak Gangasandra

An e-scooter rider has died after days of battling critical injuries following a collision with a car just before Christmas.

The 28-year-old Griffin man was riding an e-scooter in Lawnton in Moreton Bay on December 22 when he collided with a car at the corner of Gympie Rd and Lawnton Pocket Rd.

The driver of the car was not injured and assisted police with inquiries as the critically injured man was transported to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

He has since died due to his injuries and the Forensic Crash Unit is continuing investigations.

In a separate incident, a Brisbane man is in a serious condition after the e-scooter he was riding collided with a car on Saturday evening in Brisbane.

The man, who is aged about 20, was riding an e-scooter through Highgate Hill when he collided with a car on Gladstone Rd about 8.15pm, police said.

The man was transported about 9pm with critical care paramedics to the PA hospital in a serious condition with head injuries, emergency services said.

Higgins' fiance's email on pitch

Courtney Gould

Brittany Higgins' partner David Sharaz discussed going after the "Liberal Party machine" in his initial pitch to journalist Lisa Wilkinson.

More than 100 documents containing emails and text exchanges between the Network Ten star, executives, and producers were released by the court on Thursday evening, pulling back the curtain on how the 2021 report about Ms Higgins was put together.

Bruce Lehrmann is suing Network Ten and the former Project host for the airing of the program that published Ms Higgins allegation of rape against him at Parliament House in 2019. The program did not name him.

The initial email with the subject line "MeToo, Liberal Party, Project Pitch", was sent by Mr Sharaz to Ms Wilkinson on the morning of January 18.

He did not identify Ms Higgins who he said knew she would no longer be able to continue working for the party once she relaunched her police complaint.

"I've got a sensitive story surrounding a sexual assault at Parliament House," Mr Sharaz wrote. "She's asked me to be the one to get the story told this year The girl has been through a lot, and I'm deeply protective of making sure this is done right, given going after the Liberal Party machine is no easy feat.

He said his experience, as a former Sky News employee, gave him "insight" Ms Higgins would "only get one pull of the trigger before they try and discredit and shut the story down".

"I can say this, it's the first time something like that has happened under Prime Minister Scott Morrison's watch. He can no longer use the excuse: 'This is a bubble' issue, or 'this was before my time'.

Ms Wilkinson responded a couple of hours later indicating she was "very keen" to look into the story further.

MELANOMA: Katrina Chan was shocked to learn a mole was cancerous.

Friend's push for testing

Madeleine Achenza

A young Australian woman has opened up about how her friend's skin cancer scare led to a chilling discovery.

Influencer Katrina Chan, 30, had put off getting her skin checked for years due to the cost.

But she was pushed to get assessed after her friend Stephanie Adams, 29, discovered a questionable-looking mole on her foot was precancerous.

Ms Chan then forked out about $200 for the first full-body check and was stunned when they found a melanoma spot.

"I was just so shocked," she said.

She has since had the cancerous mole removed and now estimates she has spent more than $1000 in total since then, with the cost covering a GP consultation, mole mapping, cancer removal surgery and check-ups every three months.

"It is quite a bit now, I'm going every three months," she said.

Each time she goes in for a check-up she has to fork out two payments – one for her GP and the other for the private skin care clinic. She gets about $40 back from Medicare on a total outlay of $400.

Her private health insurance doesn't cover any of the cost.

Despite the rising cost, she's grateful to her friend for giving her the push to get checked as it just may have saved her life.

"It might be expensive now to get checked but if there is actually something wrong, it's going to be so much more expensive to try and fix it."

She said she grew up wearing sunscreen but now realises, like many Australians, she never took it too seriously.

Ms Adams, who originally gave her the nudge to get her skin checked, has also spent about $1000 out of pocket getting checked and having cancers removed.

Covid-19 here for 40 years

No mask mandate likely

Ellen Ransley

Australia is unlikely to return to widespread mask mandates, experts say, despite the country grappling with a surge of Covid-19 cases.

In some states, Covid-19 cases are higher than they were last winter, with two highly infectious strains of the virus circulating among the community and hospitalisations increasing.

But the number of intensive care admissions and deaths linked to Covid-19 has not dramatically risen and epidemiologists say there's no evidence to show new strains are any more deadly than the flu.

This week, NSW Health confirmed the state was experiencing the highest level of Covid-19 in over a year, with high transmission rates linked to the Christmas-New Year period.

Around the country, JN.1 – a strain of Omicron and a sub-variant of BA.2.86 which is also still circulating – is increasingly become the dominant strain of the virus, currently making up almost a third of Covid-19 cases in Australia.

"New strains are emerging all the time – if the virus doesn't mutate or change it will die out, there's not much chance of that happening," infectious diseases physician Peter Collignon said.

"This is going to happen for the next 40 years, it's not going to go away."

According to the federal health department, in the four weeks to January 1, the national genomic surveillance system AusTrakka reported that 31.6 per cent of all uploaded sequences belonged to the JN.1 variant.

But there is "no evidence to suggest the variant was associated with more severe disease", the health department and experts like Professor Collignon say.

They say that JN.1 would only become a "worrying problem" if it were "much more severe and more transmissible".

"The only way to really assess what's happening is looking at deaths, hospital admissions, and crucially ICU admissions – and that's less than what it was six months ago and what it was a year ago," Professor Collignon said.

"Every wave we have is having less effect, as judged by serious disease compared to the waves before.

"And that's what you'd expect when you've got a highly immunised population."

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said there was evidence to show JN.1 was linked to increased hospitalisations, and "no evidence yet to show that it is any more transmissible or severe than the myriad other Omicron sub-variants that we've all been grappling with over the last couple of years".

Infectious diseases pediatrician Robert Booy, however, said increasing evidence that JN.1 was linked to more hospitalisations would come, but also noted the lack of links to increased deaths.

Professor Booy said there was a case for reinstating mask requirements on a limited basis, when dealing with highly vulnerable and at-risk people in specific hospital wards and nursing homes.

UNCOMFORTABLE
& SORE EYES?
There's no need to suffer in silence - we can help!
Dry eye doesn't need to impact your life...
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT OR VISIT US:
Phone: 07 4639 2378
147 Russell Street Toowoomba 4350
www.heroneyecare.com.au
HERON EYECARE
"A Lifetime of Eye care"
CONVENIENT OFF-STREET PARKING

ONLY at coles
Get 50% off a Vogue, Vogue Living, delicious., Inside Out, Gourmet Traveller, Marie Claire or Belle magazine.
Scan this coupon to redeem your discount. Excludes Coles Express and Coles Online.
10 January - 23 January, 2024
Valid between 10/01/24 - 23/01/24 (while stocks last) when you scan the barcode on the coupon (not the barcode on the front or back page). Barcode must be original from hardcopy newspaper. A limit of one magazine per coupon applies. Coupons that have been defaced, damaged or altered, or have passed the expiry date, are not valid for the offer. Redeemable at only Coles supermarkets. Excludes Coles Express and Coles online.
TCHE01201MA - V1

Moving towards court hearing

Peter Hardwick

The case against a 25-year-old man charged with murder arising from the death of Toowoomba man Thor Morgan has taken an important step forward to the matter getting to hearing.

Lachlan Mark Freund has been held in custody since his arrest months after the death of Mr Morgan in March 2022 and was not required to be in Toowoomba Magistrates Court on Friday, January 12, when his case was mentioned.

His solicitor Abdul Rashidi, of Alexander Rashidi Lawyers, told the court the murder charge had already gone by way of registry committal up to the Supreme Court while a registry committal on the associated charge of arson of a motor vehicle had also been sent to the District Court.

Mr Rashidi asked that an associated unlawful use of a motor vehicle charge arising from the same alleged incident also be directed by Magistrate Patricia Kirkman-Scroope to be sent up to the District Court to join that arson charge.

One last charge under the Weapons Act could simply be adjourned, he said.

Mr Freund is charged with murder arising from the death of Mr Morgan who police claim was shot while driving on Ruthven St north near Downlands College in the early hours of March 25, 2022.

Mr Freund has not as yet been required to enter any pleas to the charges as neither has his co-accused Tina Kathleen Hazard, 36, who is also charged with murder arising from Mr Morgan's death.

Magistrate Kirkman-Scroope acceded to Mr Rashidi's request and directed that the unlawful use of a motor vehicle charge be transferred up to the District Court to join the arson matter.

She remanded Mr Freund in custody and adjourned the weapon's matter for mention back in the Magistrates Court on April 12.

SUPPORT FOR TOM: Aunt, uncle and cousins (from left) Peter Smith, Kathy Smith, Maddy Schumann, Jackson Schumann and Kaitlyn Schumann as family, friends and supporters watch at the City Golf Club as Toowoomba MMA fighter Tom Nolan made his UFC debut. Pictures: Kevin Farmer

'Big Train's' family proud after big fight

Peter Hardwick

More than 200 people filed into the City Golf Club from 7am on Sunday to watch Toowoomba fighter Tom "Big Train" Nolan make his UFC debut live from Las Vegas.

City Golf Club staff were kept busy serving the long line of people looking for that early morning coffee before they found the best vantage points to watch the fight on the big screens surrounding the sports bar.

Unfortunately, the roar of the crowd which filled the golf club as Tom Nolan made his way to the octagon was quietened when Big Train slumped to the canvas after copping a vicious right cross from Brazilian opponent Nikolas Motta.

The referee rightly stopped the fight as Motta threw a flurry of punches at Nolan while he was on the canvas.

While Tom Nolan had his older brother Luke in his corner in Vegas, the rest of the family, including dad Kevin "Nobby" Nolan, mum Collette Smith, sister Grace and her husband Peter and family, and the wider Nolan family were all at the City Golf Club to watch the fight.

Though obviously disappointed, dad Nobby Nolan was philosophical about the result.

"It's not what I expected, but after all he is fighting the best in the world," Mr Nolan said.

"We knew he (Motta) had a good right hand, and that right he threw was a ripper that got Tom. But that's sport, that's how it goes sometimes, and Tom will learn from that.

"I'm sure he'll be back better for the experience."

Mr Nolan admitted to being very nervous before his son's fight but was proud of his son having a go in one of the toughest sports on the planet.

"I was so nervous I was up at 4am because I couldn't sleep," he said.

"But to have your son fighting on the big stage in Vegas before a worldwide audience, that is pretty special, and to have his brother Luke in his corner is also very special.

"I haven't spoken to him yet, obviously, but Tom would be devastated.

"But have a look at how many of his fans turned up this morning to watch him, I'm always proud of my kids.

"He'll be back."

For more pictures, turn to Page 9.

Tom's dad Kev Nolan before the fight.

NOT AUTHORISED BY OR ASSOCIATED IN ANYWAY WITH TAYLOR SWIFT. 100% UNOFFICIAL

SOUVENIR MAGAZINE

out now

BONUS POSTER WITH $9.95

Scan to find your nearest stockist

V1 - TCHE012024A

Staff revolt on work model

Chris Herde

Australian workers are pushing back against demands by employers to return to the office, sparking fears of a wave of resignations in 2024 over work-life-balance issues.

A study by the International Workplace Group found Australian hybrid workers — those spending a portion of their work week at home — believe work flexibility eased cost of living pressures, decreased stress levels and increased happiness.

More than half (56 per cent) of hybrid workers surveyed said they were likely to resign from their job in 2024 if they have to take a long commute into the office five days a week while other employers are seeking new ways to keep their staff.

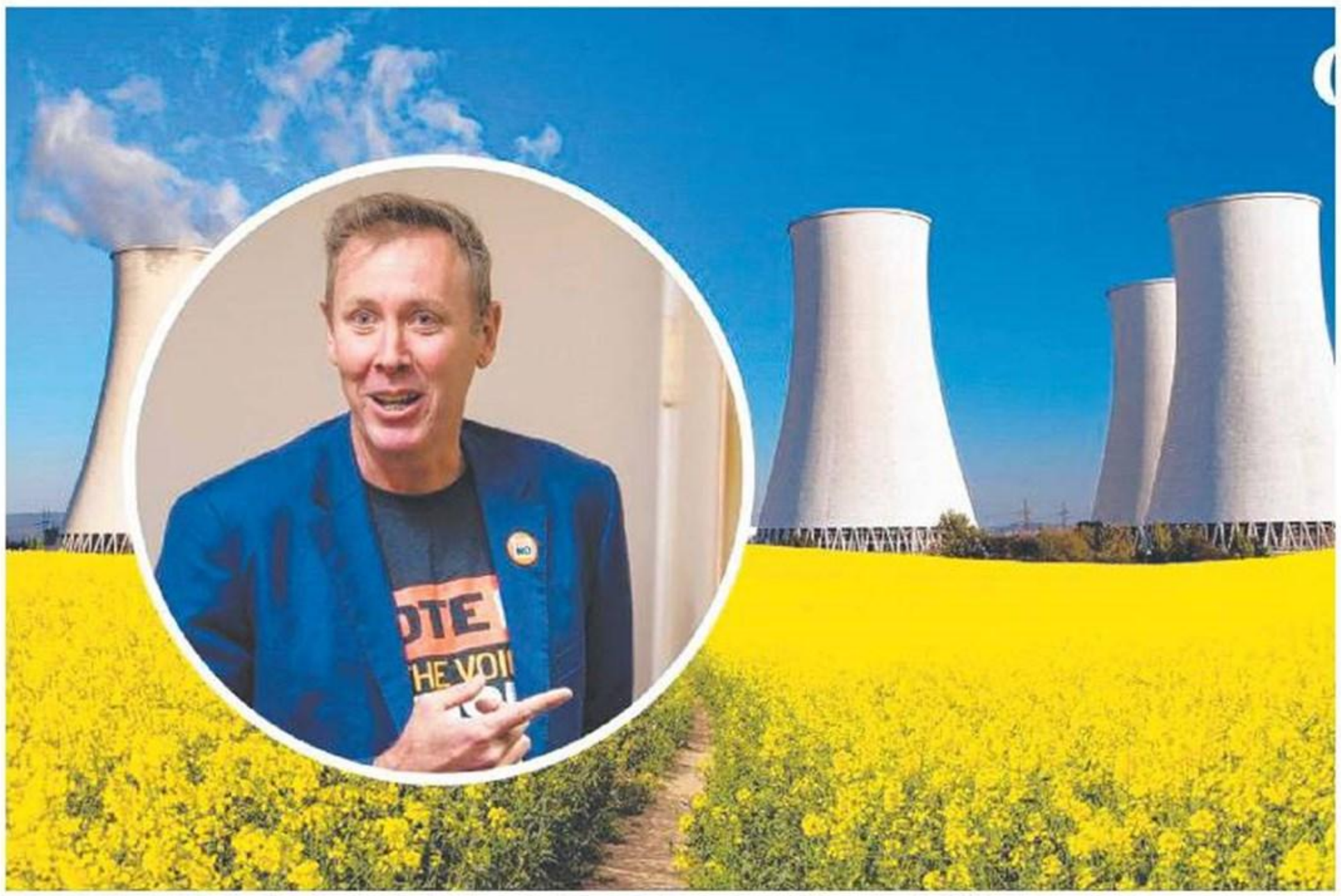
IWG Country Head Australia Damien Sheehan said the Australian workplace was undergoing a structural shift well before the pandemic because of communication innovations such as Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, which made it more possible to work from home.

"We would have ended up there anyway, and what the pandemic did was fast forward these new ways of working which are now here to stay," he said. "That period during the pandemic that we all spent working at home drove significant changes on how people viewed the relationship between their professional business life and their personal life.

"To tell workers now that they have to go back to five days a week in the office seems almost unrealistic. But somewhere in-between probably feels right. That somewhere in-between will depend on the employers and where they are in regard to retaining staff because unemployment is still really low and at this stage it's an employee-led market."

RMIT senior lecturer of Business Administration Dr Melissa Wheeler warned employers risked losing staff if they insisted workers return to the office.

"Many people won't be willing to give up their flexible working arrangements to be forced back into commuting and working in a set place at fixed times," she said.



FUTURE ENERGY: Garth Hamilton has released polling that shows about 69 per cent of Groom voters would support Australia lifting the ban on nuclear energy.

MP supports exploring future nuclear options

Michael Nolan

Groom MP Garth Hamilton has called for a discussion on adding nuclear power to Australia's energy mix, claiming it would be a cost effective way to reduce power bills.

Earlier this week he released polling data that showed about 69 per cent of Groom voters would support Australia lifting the ban on nuclear energy.

The results were drawn from a poll of 1800 Toowoomba residents.

"I think it is very sensible to consider nuclear power as we do in any leading nation," he said.

"We have it in our oceans (with a planned nuclear submarine fleet), we have it in our medicine, we holiday in countries with nuclear power and we trade with them."

When asked where he would like to see a nuclear power plant built, Mr Hamilton said he would support using existing infrastructure – namely replacing decommissioned fossil fuel power stations with nuclear reactors.

He suggested existing energy sector infrastructure within the Darling Downs, including Tarong Power Station, could be potential sites for a reactor "if it was the best option at the time".

He also dismissed the threat imposed by storage and disposing of waste.

"Waste management is done in leading countries, I am sure we can rise to the challenge."

While it may be true that 69 per cent of Toowoomba residents support nuclear power, that figure drops significantly outside of the Darling Downs.

An Essential poll published in 2023 found national support was at about 50 per cent, while support from LNP voters was about 70 per cent.

> "I think it is very sensible to consider nuclear power as we do in any leading nation.
>
> **Garth Hamilton**

The debate around whether nuclear power would lower power bills is far from settled with the CSIRO's GenCost draft report finding the cost of small modular reactors has increased significantly as more data has come out of the US.

The CSIRO forecasts the SMRs would be at least twice as expensive as a 90 per cent renewable system, including storage and transmission costs, by 2030.

This does not include the cost of storing nuclear waste.

The report found global inflationary pressures resulted in a 70 per cent increase in the cost to build SMRs, while other energy generating technologies were only up about 20 per cent.

Meanwhile, the centre-right Blueprint Institute, which hosts three former Liberal and National Party politicians on its strategic council, said the role of nuclear power was limited to 2040 onwards and called for the governments to "double down" on renewables.

Clare Silcock from the Queensland Conservation Council said the "discussion" around nuclear power was a delaying tactic and action on climate change and energy prices was needed now.

"Nuclear could not provide cost reductions in the next decade because it is much more expensive than renewable energy and the technology and industry are not ready in Australia," she said.

"Nuclear waste is a deeply problematic and incredibly long-term issue.

"After 70 years of the nuclear industry, not one country has a final nuclear waste disposal site.

"Every site proposed in Australia has been opposed by traditional owners, and in July 2023, the Federal Court refused the Kimba nuclear waste proposal after a challenge by the Barngala people."

"Nuclear energy is low carbon, but it has no realistic opportunity to help Australia reduce our carbon emissions which need to be drastically reduced this decade to avoid further impacts of climate change."

Copenhagen, Hobart planting royal trees

The cities of Hobart and Copenhagen have partnered to both plant a "significant tree" in honour of the birth cities of the future King and Queen of Denmark, Prince Frederik and Aussie-born Princess Mary.

In honour of the proclamation event, the City of Hobart will plant a blue gum (eucalyptus globulus), which is Tasmania's floral emblem.

The City of Copenhagen will need to have their tree politically approved by the City Council after the succession to the throne.

Keeping provider costing us billions

Aussies are losing billions of dollars by sticking with the same utility providers they have always had. Research by Finder found electricity, mobile and broadband cost Australians a collective $4.5 billon in loyalty tax in 2023. That equals to $331 per person.

Aussies are on average paying more than $1.2 billion in loyalty tax for NBN alone, $1.1 billion for electricity, and $2.2 billion for mobile data. Tech and utilities expert Marian Gabaji said it was shocking how many people were missing out on a better deal.

Aussies racking up purchases on cards

Data on November spending shows more Australians racked up purchases on their credit cards before the Christmas season even got under way. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics found spending on personal credit cards increased by 3.58 per cent year-on-year. The value of the shops are rose by .81 per cent year-on-year, totalling to $26.66bn over the month.

Canstar's financial expert Steve Mickenbecker the data was proof of the growing dominance of Black Friday sales.

JLR Aust recalling hundreds of cars

JLR Australia is recalling 465 examples of the Range Rover Sport due to issues with its tail lights. "Due to a manufacturing defect, the right-hand tailgate and body mounted rear lamps may not be sealed sufficiently allowing moisture to enter the lamps," the company says in its recall notice.

"As a result, the reverse, brake/stop and indicator lamps may not illuminate as intended. "Loss of reverse, brake/stop and indicator lamp system functionality could increase the risk of an accident."

Huge pay for time in Antarctica

Carla Mascarenhas

For Aussies game enough to live and work in Antarctica a massive payday could be in store.

The remote but beautiful continent 6400km from Australia is full of opportunities.

A season in Antarctica can earn you over $200,000 a year working with the Australian Antarctic Program (AAP).

The program coordinates Australia's activities in Antarctica, from scientific research through to logistics and transport. The AAP's vision, according to its website, is to ensure Antarctica is valued, protected and understood by supporting world-leading science.

"From the smallest microbes, to krill (the keystone species of the Antarctic ecosystem), to blue whales (the largest animals to have ever existed), the research conducted through the Australian Antarctic Program helps protect the unique environment and biological systems of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean," the website reads.

There are currently 33 roles open to Aussies – ranging from tradies to medics.

A boilermaker would earn a base salary and allowance of $145,142 a year, a communications operator $136,409 and a chef up to $145,142.

Premier asked to intervene over crisis within QFES

Issue of toxic firey culture

CRISIS: Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland general manager Justin Choveaux has written an open letter to Premier Steven Miles.

Taylah Fellows

Premier Steven Miles has been asked to launch an independent investigation into Queensland Fire and Emergency Services amid claims of bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland general manager Justin Choveaux has penned an open letter to Mr Miles, urgently requesting an investigation after complaints were made to him by multiple QFES employees.

The letter said paid staff had made complaints of systemic contempt, bullying, harassment and discrimination based primarily on gender, professional backgrounds and progressive leadership.

The Courier-Mail understands complaints included female employees being demeaned, employees overlooked for promotion, and unwanted touching.

The association said complaints rose over the past few months following the resignation of commissioner Greg Leach in October.

Mr Leach has no connection to the complaints raised with the Rural Fire Brigades Association.

In his letter, Mr Choveaux wrote that staff had resorted to contacting him as they had no faith or trust in the QFES or fire and rescue service to fairly investigate the claims, as they believed the discrimination was systemic.

"Individuals report being collectively targeted and being exposed to prolonged behaviours that lead to impacts on personal and professional reputations on executives, staff and volunteers across services and that this has instilled fear, anxiety, defeatism and poor morale and psychological health," he wrote.

Mr Miles acknowledged the "serious concerns", and arranged for Mr Choveaux to meet with newly appointed Fire and Disaster Recovery Minister Nikki Boyd.

"I've asked the new Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery to meet with him," he said.

"I would encourage anyone to refer complaints to the relevant body."

Mr Choveaux said he could not discuss who or exactly how many staff members had made the reports, but they were not people from within the Rural Fire Service.

That's why we have gone to the Premier and not the (QFES) department," he said.

"This is a government department with repeated behaviours. The Premier must act, and I believe he will."

The letter cites a previous independent review held into both QFES and the Public Safety Business Agency in 2014. The review was commissioned by Ms Margaret Allison following sexual harassment and bullying complaints and the PSBA's handling of the complaints.

The Chronicle
GARDEN
COMPETITION
2024 CALENDAR
ONLY
$5
Get your Chronicle Garden Calendar today! Only $5 for 12 months of beautiful garden photos. Available for purchase at the Chronicle Office (5 Keefe Street, behind Rowes Furniture) Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm. *Cash only
The Chronicle

Maggie and Patrick O'Connell race.

Holiday fun at Cobb and Co slot car races

GO RACING: Sisters (from left) Mia, Phoebe and Sofia Drazic race at Cobb and Co Museum's Slot Car Racing. Pictures: Kevin Farmer

Percy Hart races at the event.

Nathan (left) and Blake Salmon of Super Slot Cars Mobile Raceway prepare the track at Cobb and Co Museum's Slot Car Racing.

Greg Coonan and grandson Henry McKenzie with their car cover.

Carter and Grace Simpson create their car covers.

Ted Connors watches his car race.

George (left) and Jim Lindsay.

Sheldon Chetty and Sarah Garrett.

Strong support for fighter Tom Nolan

CHEERING TOM ON: Joining family, friends and supporters are (from left) Matt Abbott, Mariah Ballin, Melissa Ballin, Jay Ballin and Paul Worrall at the City Golf Club as Toowoomba MMA fighter Tom Nolan made his UFC debut. Pictures: Kevin Farmer

Tom Nolan on the big screen as supporters watch his fight at the City Golf Club.

Tom's sister Grace Levingston reacts to the fight.

Tom's mum Colette Smith.

Family, friends and supporters at the City Golf Club for Tom Nolan's big fight.

Kaine Bloomfield, Olivia Mills (centre) and Cyren Law.

Crown Princess Mary and Prince Frederik step out in 2018. Picture: Getty Images

Informal approach a winner

MARY AND FREDERIK'S ABILITY TO ACT LIKE 'ORDINARY PEOPLE' WILL APPEAL TO DANES, WHO WANT LESS POMP AND FORMALITY THESE DAYS

Queen Margrethe tipped her hand on the most-important role she planned for Crown Princess Mary to play in the daily life of the Royal House of Denmark.

When it was announced the Australian princess would receive the official title of Her Majesty Queen, it stood in stark contrast to the Danish monarchy's previous foreign-born "consort", Prince Henrik. Queen Margrethe II refused to make her French husband king – an open wound he took to his grave in 2018. For Queen Mary, however, she had bigger ambitions.

"It means she will also play the role of substitute for the King," historian Lars Hovbakke Sorensen said.

"She can reign over the country for some days, or weeks, when both the King and the Crown Prince are travelling abroad."

But the professor at Copenhagen's Absalon University and author of several distinguished European history books, including Denmark: From Ancient Times to Today, said it was how Mary could spend her days – between the state visits and official duties – that would set the new Queen apart and define the future of the crown. From the moment she wakes up until when she goes to bed, it's not so much the number of engagements on her calendar – though there will be many, if not more than Queen Margrethe – but how those appointments are conducted.

"They are famous for being more informal in the way of talking to people and to speaking to ordinary people than Queen Margrethe," Sorensen said, adding their regular days would not be filled with the trappings of pomp and formality.

> **Mary can reign over the country for some days, or weeks**
>
> **Lars Hovbakke Sorensen**
> Historian

"They are very close to being like ordinary people. And that is really a strength because it appeals to how people see the monarchy today in a more informal way."

That's not to say her days will be spent making Vegemite sandwiches and packing lunch boxes. Sorensen said the new King and Queen were expected to engage in notably more royal responsibilities and official duties than Queen Margrethe, who received between 50 to 150 audiences a day and, since 1972, had more than 50,000 conversations with Danes at Christiansborg Palace every other Monday.

"Frederick the 10th will have his wife by his side, and that is different from Queen Margrethe, who lost her husband in 2018," he said.

"They will have a lot of work to do and they will be having more activities as two instead of one. They will go on a lot of official visits abroad and receive a lot of respected guests from other countries.

"So she'll play this traditional role of what a queen consort is expected to do," Sorensen said, adding Queen Margrethe would step back as a more of a "patroness" post-abdication.

"In her daily life, Queen Mary will be engaged in a lot of different things: opening exhibitions, working to improve the conditions for the poor, children and single women, and a lot of different affairs. She is very much engaged in social issues and she has a lot of protections, as it's called, of different organisations."

The new Queen is expected to continue her work with The Mary Foundation, which she established in 2007 to combat the social isolation that comes with bullying, domestic violence and loneliness.

She is also expected to

Fairytale romance from a pub to a palace

It was the unlikeliest of romances: a globetrotting playboy prince and a girl from Tasmania working in the back office of an Australian real estate agency.

But from a chance meeting in a crowded Sydney harbourside pub in 2000 to today, the fairytale love story of now King Frederik and Queen Mary has played out for all the world to see.

"I found myself in an unknown country among happy, festive foreigners," Frederik would later recount to the royal court of that chance meeting at the Slip Inn during the 2000 Olympics.

He never told her he was the heir to the throne of Denmark as he introduced himself to her simply as Fred as he stood there drinking merrily with others, including his brother Prince Joachim and cousin Prince Nikolaos.

"My only luggage at that time was my high

expectations of my visit and a certain degree of confidence," the then Crown Prince Frederik would reveal during toasts after their wedding in May 2004.

"I had only been in Australia two days before our fates were sealed, even though neither of us was aware of it. But your radiance shone clearly for me from our very first meeting."

The vivacious Mary Donaldson had only been invited to the pub by her then Bondi Junction terrace housemate, who told her to come for beer and pizza with friends at a city pub.

By all reports Mary and her Aussie gal pals began debating the sexiness of chest hair on men as they turned to the table of princes and their open shirts to pose the question and sample a chest rub. The hairless Frederik caught her eye and they soon bonded over more in-depth

Crown Princess Mary and Prince Frederik at his 50th birthday in 2018 (top); Mary and Queen Margrethe (above); and an official portrait of Margrethe.

HOBART GIRL WHO WANTED TO BE A VET

GROWING UP IN A MODEST HOME AND POPULAR AT SCHOOL, THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF SCOTTISH IMMIGRANTS LOVED SPORT AND HORSES

When Mary Donaldson was growing up she did not dream of becoming a princess.

She had a much more sensible plan; to become a vet.

However, she was just two years old when she first caught the eye of a prince, wandering into the path of the then Prince Charles while he was on a visit to Tasmania.

Emma Tom, who wrote the 2005 unauthorised biography Something About Mary, said the now queen "made a good impression on royal males from the get-go".

Born to two Scottish-born immigrants – John Donaldson, a professor and academic, and Etta Donaldson, a cat lover, royalist and a personal assistant at the University of Tasmania – Mary was the youngest of four.

In a 2004 documentary, her father admits he was "more of a disciplinarian than necessary", although by all accounts Mary got away with more than her siblings.

The Donaldson children grew up in a modest four-bed home in Morris Ave, Hobart, and shared bedrooms.

The older-style property was recently listed for rent in 2022 for $570.

Mary said her father encouraged her to do what made her happy. For her, that involved lots of sport including hockey, tennis and basketball. She was very competitive, but horses were her real passion. Eventually, she persuaded her parents to buy her one, which she called Sultan, and later competed in dressage and showjumping competitions.

Like all the Donaldsons, Mary was publicly educated, first at Sandy Bay Infants School and then Waimea Heights Primary and Taroona High.

Her teachers described her as capable and she was popular with her classmates.

Teacher Peter Armstrong remembers her as "confident, articulate and outgoing".

"She had firm goals and she was always going to achieve," Mr Armstrong told News Corp. "You could never predict that she would go on to marry a prince but she was very determined."

Tasmanian journalist Rachel Edwards said Taroona High was known for its "skatey culture" and a school where kids liked to party.

However, despite many journalists looking into her background, no one has ever unearthed anything remotely scandalous, apart from 1980s fashion that included "giant shoulder pads and a scrunched poodle perm", according to author Tom.

Glenn Marriott, a former boyfriend who said he dated Mary for three years, described her as a "fantastic, sweet girl".

After abandoning her earlier ambition of becoming a vet, she studied commerce and law at the University of Tasmania.

She had a new dream to become a managing director of an international company.

Well, she can probably tick that one off. As Queen of Denmark she is now the face of a Danish brand, representing her adopted country overseas.

Hooray to that Tassie girl who got what she wanted in the end.

Princess Mary during a visit to Sydney in 2011, and (insets, above) as a child, at her school formal and the former Donaldson family home.

continue as a patron of Danish organisations such as Children, Youth & Grief, the Christmas Seal Foundation, and the Danish Mental Health Fund. As patron of the Danish Swimming Federation and the Danish Heart Foundation, Queen Mary could also continue focusing on creating communities through sports. As patron of the UN Population Fund and Maternity Foundation, her work focuses on promoting the rights of girls and women.

She is expected to also highlight health issues in Europe with the World Health Organisation, and remain a member of the UN's International Centre for Research on Women's Leadership Council.

Queen Mary likely will deliver more official speeches than she did as a princess, when she addressed the People's Movement Against Loneliness conference in 2022, Prince Frederik's official 50th birthday in 2018, and the opening of the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development conference in 2016. Mary was first made a "rigsforstander" in 2019 as Crown Princess. On the occasion she rises to the acting head of state of Denmark as Queen, it will be one of the rare times in the country's history that anyone other than the Crown Prince will be allowed to act as regent in the absence of the monarch.

It places a heavier weight of responsibility on Queen Mary's shoulders than her predecessor, Prince Henrik, who renounced his role as consort and spent most of his final years at his private vineyard in southern France.

Rather than being put out to pasture like Prince Henrik, Sorensen said Queen Margrethe saw s Mary in the mould of her beloved mother Queen Ingrid, who was widowed after King Frederick IX died in 1972.

"After he died, Queen Ingrid of Sweden very often was a substitute for Queen Margrethe when she was abroad," Sorensen said. "So we have seen it before that you have foreigners, so to speak, in taking that role."

The importance of Queen Ingrid continues to resonate in the Danish royal family today. She became the first member of the family other than the Crown Prince who was allowed to act as regent in the absence of the monarch.

That move is what allows Queen Mary to become Denmark's acting head of state and fulfil official functions in place of Frederik X, as Queen Ingrid did "innumerable" times after the death of Frederik IX.

"Queen Ingrid's importance for the present Danish royal family can hardly be over-estimated," Amalienborg Palace's official history of the late royal said.

"She helped her husband rise to the occasion as king, and with her perceptiveness and sense of style, set an example for the current generations of the royal family."

discussion of horses and sport, before the high-spirited group drank on into the night at other city bars. For "Fred" and Mary, their fates were sealed, their love story begun.

Hobart-born Mary had graduated from the University of Tasmania with degrees in commerce and law but worked in various jobs including as an account manager for an advertising agency, even appearing in a TV commercial in 1998 for Victoria's regional train travel (which since last weekend has resurfaced to trend on social media).

But after the Slip Inn romance she soon quit Sydney and moved to Copenhagen for intense lessons in the Danish language, diplomacy and royal decorum.

The couple maintained a long-distance relationship for a year, with the then 32-year-old Frederik making secret trips to Australia to visit his 28-year-old love, but by 2001 it was decided her journey into the royal family should begin.

By 2003 Queen Margrethe formally acknowledged the relationship and an engagement was announced later that year.

Their love would make four beautiful children, with the eldest, 18-year-old Christian, elevated to Crown Prince and heir to the throne after the ascension of his parents.

Frederik might today be king, but from the beginning he has credited his queen with being his guiding force.

"The joy and the strength you give me is like the sun in the daytime which, with its radiance, melts all doubts and darkness on earth," he said during their wedding vows.

"And like the moon at night, you shine with a watchful and delicate beam of gentleness, which extinguishes the mischief and deceit used by the symbols of darkness."

Toowoomba Chronicle | Monday January 15, 2024

Mary's diet is thought to be based on locally sourced and readily available natural foods.

Never a hair out of right royal place

HER HAIRDRESSER HAS CUT AND RUN BUT A LOYAL RETINUE OF ASSISTANTS, ADVISERS AND STAFFERS IS STILL STANDING BY TO SHAPE QUEEN MARY'S REGAL HOUSEHOLD.

Zoe Smith and Danielle Gusmaroli

Behind every photograph, speech delivered, social media post placed and ribbon cut is an army of royal specialists guiding our Mary in Denmark.

As many as a dozen people form the Tasmanian-born royal's inner circle. Some have been there from the day she arrived in Copenhagen. Others will join her as she embarks on her new role as queen.

And with the shock abdication of Queen Margrethe – described by Danish royal expert Trine Villemann as "a bomb that just blew up" – the then Princess Mary received some explosive news of her own.

Her longstanding hairdresser was moving on.

But there is still a loyal contingent of assistants, advisers and staffers standing by to shape her new regal household.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Steen Evald has long been Queen Mary's go-to photographer for official portraits and private family images.

The Dane's ability to make her feel relaxed and at ease is evident in the shots he has taken.

Mr Evald, who has regularly snapped her on royal tours and visits, has also taken portraits of Crown Prince Christian, Princess Isabella, Princess Josephine and Prince Vincent, during his two decades as the royal family's official photographer.

The photographer said he had "shared many tender moments" with the family over the years.

"I have been the preferred photographer for the Crown Prince couple for 20 years and they are beautiful people to photograph," he said.

"I have watched their children grow and seen the family change over the years, we have shared many tender moments together.

"When Crown Prince Frederik turned 50, I took a strong portrait cover of him that graced magazine covers that is one of my favourite pictures of him. It shows his maturity. I have photographed Crown Princess Mary and her babies and been privileged to share in their special moments."

Ole Henriksen and Steen Evald.

SKIN CARE

Danish skincare guru Ole Henriksen met Princess Mary during her first pregnancy with eldest son Crown Prince Christian when she called on him for advice.

This sparked a long friendship and he has since advised the royal on the correct products to use and how to enhance her natural radiance.

Mr Henriksen described their initial encounter as one where he was "mesmerised by her beautiful smile and stunning sense of style".

While he is now based in Los Angeles, his luxurious products are regularly delivered to Amalienborg Palace.

Henriette Ellermann-Kingombe

LADIES IN WAITING

Over the years, Princess Mary has had several ladies-in-waiting, who organise her work diary, accompany the royal to high-profile events and assist her during engagements.

For seven years, this prestigious role was held by Tanja Doky, who is said to have struck up a firm and lasting friendship with the royal.

After Ms Doky left the role, former barrister Christine Pil Hansen stepped into her shoes.

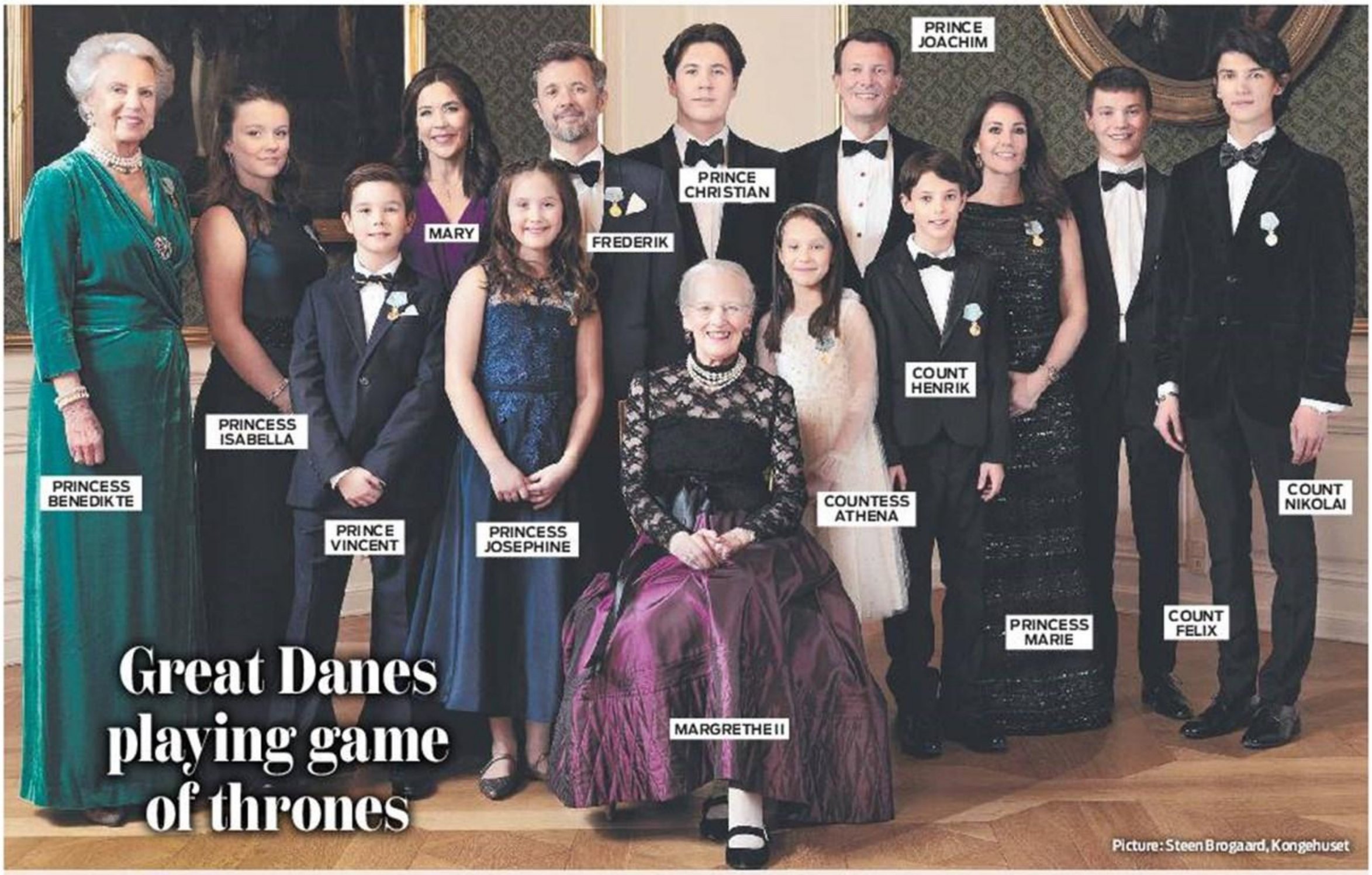
She held the role for several years before being appointed private secretary and lady-in-waiting in 2015,.

In that position, she helped organise the royal's ever-expanding work diary, accompanied her to high-profile events and assisted her during engagements.

In 2021, Ms Pil Hansen left the royal household and returned to her job as deputy head of the Department of International Law in Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She was replaced by Henriette Ellermann-Kingombe, who previously worked in the Danish Prime Minister's Office and the Danish parliament.

She remains in the role.



Great Danes playing game of thrones

Picture: Steen Brogaard, Kongehuset

The line of succession in the House of Denmark has shifted since King Frederik X and wife Queen Mary took the throne. Their son Crown Prince Christian, 18, is now the next heir to the throne and his sister Isabella, 16, second. Despite the smiles, Frederik's brother Prince Joachim, fifth in line, is still displeased his children were stripped of their prince and princess titles a year ago. Nevertheless, they are still in the line of succession.

Who's who in the Danish royal family:

PRINCESS BENEDIKTE

Margrethe's younger sister is 10th in line to the throne. Her three children have the title prince and princess, but lost their succession rights as they were not permanently resident in Denmark during their education.

PRINCESS ISABELLA

Mary and Frederik's eldest daughter is 16. She undertook her first royal engagement, aged 8, in 2015.

PRINCE VINCENT

The 13-year-old's place in the line of succession was affected by a constitutional change two years before his birth, that no longer favoured boys. Vincent is third in line behind his big brother and sister, Christian and Isabella.

MARY

Married to Frederik since 2004, the Australian famously met her prince charming in a Sydney pub. Popular with Danes after embracing their language and culture, she acted as regent in Margrethe and Frederik's absence in 2019, but now faces the full responsibilities of Queen.

PRINCESS JOSEPHINE

Frederik and Mary's younger daughter, Josephine, 13, is Vincent's twin. Both have a Greenlandic name among their middle names, Ivalo for her, and Minik for him.

FREDERIK

Ascending to the throne at the age of 55, King Frederik X will reign over Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. He's been known as a party prince, but his mother has lauded his down-to-earth ability to connect to "all sorts of people".

PRINCE CHRISTIAN

The 18 year old seemed keen to stay out of the royal limelight in 2023 when it was announced he would delay taking a royal allowance and focus on his studies, but as heir to the throne there's no doubting his star power.

MARGRETHE II

Known for her chain-smoking (only curtailed recently) and eccentric style, the first female monarch since Margrethe I (1376-1412) also has a tough streak – stripping four of her grandchildren of their royal titles to "futureproof" the monarchy.

PRINCE JOACHIM

Frederik's brother, Joachim, 54, has moved to Washington with his second wife and younger children. He was upset at his mother's decision to remove his children's titles.

PRINCESS MARIE

Marie married Frederik's brother Joachim in 2008 and they have two children.

COUNT HENRIK

Henrik, 14, is the only son of Joachim and his second wife, Marie. He, his sister, Athena, and their half-siblings lost their royal titles on January 1, 2023, but remain in the line of succession.

COUNTESS ATHENA

Athena, 11, is the only daughter of Joachim and his second wife Marie. She is the last of Margrethe's grandchildren in the line of succession.

COUNT FELIX

Felix, 21, is the youngest son of Joachim and his first wife, Alexandra. In 2022, he began studying at Copenhagen Business School.

COUNT NIKOLAI

The eldest son of Joachim and his first wife, Alexandra, has found success as a model, but is also a business student. The 24-year-old has described losing his title as a shock, but "I am the same person as I've always been".

HAIRDRESSER

Soon after Mary Donaldson met and fell in love with the then Crown Prince Frederik, she was introduced to the hairdresser and make-up artist Soeren Hedegaard. It was a working relationship built on fun, trust and loyalty.

Soeren Hedegaard

In the early days, the pair allegedly would sneak out to test makeup looks at the Estee Lauder counter in a Copenhagen department store. The master stylist primped and prepped the stunning Mary for 23 years.

But, following the abdication announcement, Mr Hedegaard decided to step down and focus on his job as creative director at the STUHR salon.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, he wrote: "Dear friends, with the end of 2023 and with a change of throne in view, I have also chosen a change in my life.

Mr Hedegaard said he was "passing the baton on to the next generation".

"It has been 23 amazing and unforgettable years with memories and friendships that I will always carry in my heart," he wrote.

His replacement has not been announced.

PERSONAL TRAINERS/ NUTRITIONIST

Queen Mary has employed a string of personal trainers over the years to help her maintain her fitness and shape.

She is said to prefer a targeted exercise regimen that includes walking, jogging and horse riding. The Queen is also a fan of weights and heavy lifting.

When it comes to her diet, she is said to be proponent of the "Danish diet", a sensible eating plan that is centred on locally sourced and readily available natural foods.

It focuses less on meat and more on oily fish as well as root vegetables, nuts and fruits.

CLOSEST CONFIDANTS

Caroline Heering served as Queen Mary's lady in waiting and private secretary for a period shortly after the royal married King Frederik X.

Over the decades, the pair's working relationship grew and Herring is now believed to be one of Queen Mary's closest friends and confidantes.

Ms Heering is married to one of King Frederik's childhood friends, Peter, and the pair are godparents to Princess Isabella and Prince Vincent.

Birgitte Handwerk, the partner of one of King Frederik's best friends, Jeppe, was one of Queen Mary's first friends in Denmark.

They shared a common bond as they both raised young families at the same time.

Ms Handwerk is godmother to Queen Mary's daughter, Josephine, while her partner is a godfather to Crown Prince Christian.

Caroline Elisabeth Heering

HOW BORDER FORCE PLANS TO BUST THE CRIME

VAPES OF WRATH: THE GANGS THAT PREY ON KIDS

Crime boss Kazem Hamad runs his operation from Dubai.

Drugs and vapes seized by police (main), and an arsonist on fire at a Melbourne tobacco shop (left).

Ben Butler

The same Middle East organised crime groups that dominate the lucrative illegal tobacco industry are fuelling a vaping boom that preys on children, the Australian Border Force says.

In a bid to curb the flow of vapes – estimated to be worth $1bn a year – that is feeding a violent turf war between gangs, the ABF plans to use new laws to beef up cargo inspections and will station officers overseas to stop the products at their source.

Many of the vapes coming into Australia target children, with cartoon artwork and flavours such as "juicy peach ice" and "strawberry banana".

ABF deputy commissioner Tim Fitzgerald said new rules prohibiting the import of all disposable vapes from January 1 made seizing products easier and allowed officers to "target the higher end" of crime syndicates bringing the devices into Australia.

Health Minister Mark Butler has allocated the ABF $25m over two years to fund the crackdown.

"Vaping is creating a whole new generation of nicotine dependency in our community," he said. "It poses a major threat to Australia's success in tobacco control, and the Albanese government is not going to stand by and let this happen."

Price lists obtained from Chinese manufacturers show that 500-puff disposable vapes can be bought wholesale for as little as $2.50 each and sold in shops for five times that amount.

"That's why you've got organised crime groups involved in it," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"Simply, wherever they can make a profit, they will engage in the importation and then, ultimately, the distribution."

He said the gangs controlled 75 per cent of the illicit tobacco market in Australia, fuelling a wave of arson and violence.

In Victoria, at least 30 tobacco shops have been firebombed over the past 12 months in a war for control of the lucrative trade between the rival Marrogi and Hamad crime groups.

The Marrogi group, known as Notorious Crime Family, is headed by jailed murderer George Marrogi, while the Hamad group is run by Kazem "Kaz" Hamad from Dubai, where he lives since being deported last year after serving time for importing heroin.

In October, an arsonist caught on fire during the firebombing of a tobacco and vape shop in the Melbourne suburb of Glenroy.

Since then, Victoria Police's Taskforce Lunar – formed in response to the war – has seized more than 100,000 vapes along with illicit drugs and tobacco, and cash.

Links to serious crime are also alleged in a NSW case where authorities last year froze more than $500,000 in assets belonging to a Queensland vape shop owner.

Mr Fitzgerald said intelligence from joint operations between the ABF and state police forces provided an "evidence base in which we can confidently say organised crime are involved in the illicit vape market".

In a joint operation with the Therapeutic Goods Authority in November, the ABF seized more than 35 tonnes of vapes worth more than $11m. Mr Fitzgerald said this was "the tip of the iceberg".

He said the market had grown extremely quickly, and many vapes "with cartoon characters on the outside and the range of flavours that are available are obviously targeting children".

Mr Fitzgerald said the ABF would use the extra funding to put officers where vapes originated – China, New Zealand, Japan and Sweden.

"So, that will try to stem the supply more broadly, which will obviously impact at the border, hopefully, over a period of time and then the ability of organised crime to actually get their hands on vapes," he said.

Mr Fitzgerald said the ABF also planned to increase screening of air and sea cargo.

The ban on disposable vapes is the first step in the government's plan to curb the industry.

From March, flavours and packaging that appeals to children will be banned and vape imports will require permission from the TGA.

Mr Butler slammed vape makers for selling products "using flavours like bubble-gum and disguised as highlighter pens or USB sticks for students to hide in their pencil case".

He said this was contrary to how vaping was initially "sold" to governments "as a therapeutic product to help long-term smokers quit".

"The government is taking world-leading action to stamp out vaping to protect a new generation of kids from getting hooked on nicotine," he said.

Fans flock to pub where Mary met her prince

Eli Green and Madeleine Achenza

Sydneysiders have come out in celebration of Crown Princess Mary as she prepared to take the throne as Queen consort of Denmark last night.

She became the first Australian to hold a royal title from Sunday evening, when her husband Frederik was proclaimed king in Copenhagen.

His mother, Queen Margrethe of Denmark surprised her country and the world when she revealed during her annual New Year's Eve speech she would abdicate after 51 years in power.

The event began just after 11.30pm AEDT and 1.30pm in Copenhagen.

The 83-year-old queen ascended to the throne in 1972.

Princess Mary, then known as Mary Donaldson, was 28 years old and working as an advertising executive when she first shook hands with the Danish prince in the packed Slip Inn pub in the CBD during the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

The future king of Denmark was 32 years old at the time and attended the Games to support his nation's sailing team.

That same pub pulled out all the stops to honour the happy couple's ascension to the throne, hosting fans and international television reporters who broadcasted from the bar.

Fan Joanne King said Princess Mary's story was something out of a "true fairy tale".

"She's just amazing, you just look at her and you can see her as the Queen," she said.

"Who would have thought, someone from little old Tassie?"

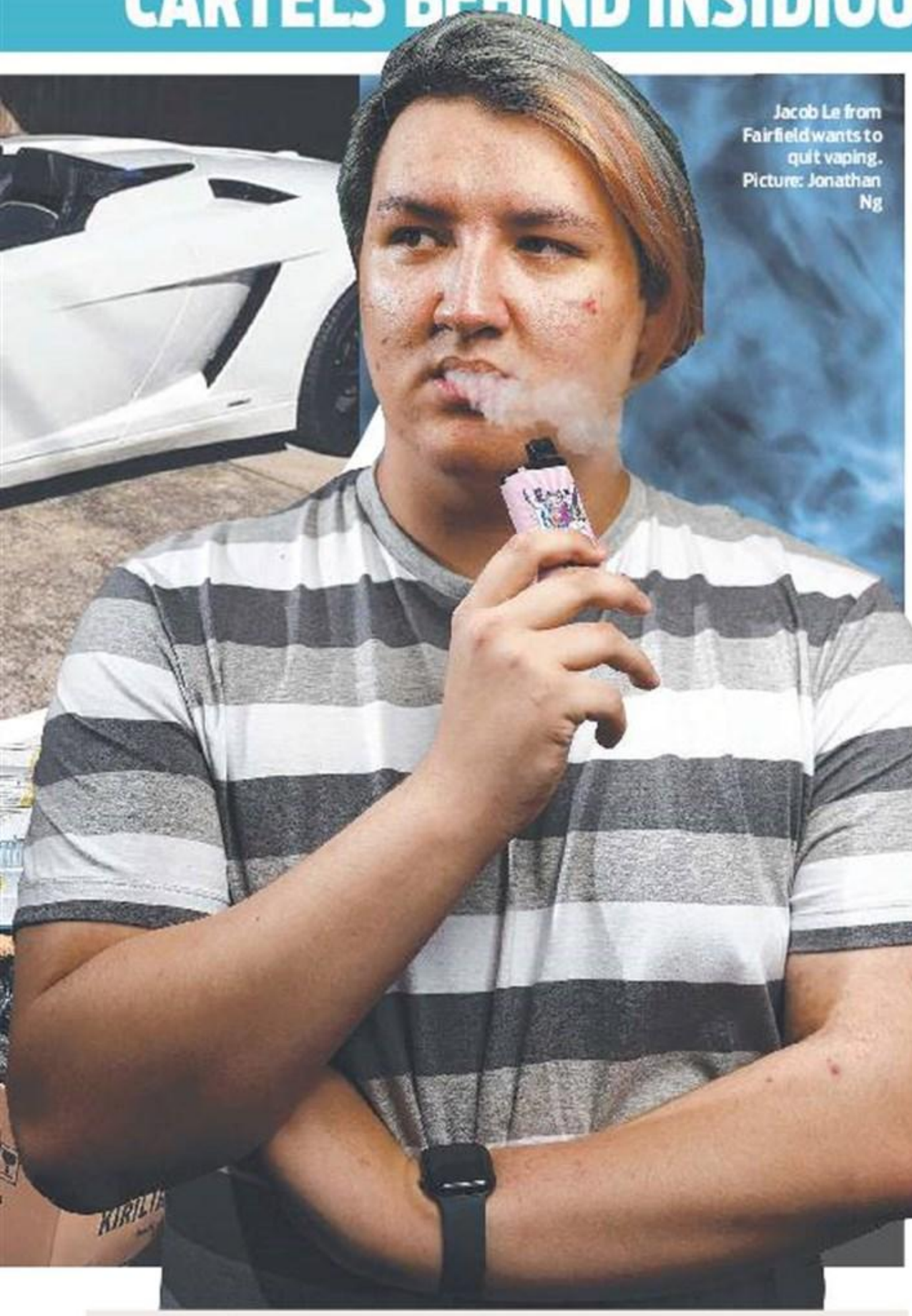
Ms King said she was impressed by the Inn's decorations, especially its signature There's Something About Mary cocktail, a mix of the Danish spirit Aquavit with Absolut Vodka, lychee, lemon, vanilla and aquafaba.

"I can just see her pictures of her, all dressed up in jewels and everything. You can just see her as a Queen."

The Slip Inn, which normally serves Mexican food, will also dish up DenMex grub for the occasion, with a special smoked hot dog called El Frederiko in honour of the incoming king.

After the couple met in 2000, they dated long distance for a year, with Frederik secretly travelling to Australia before Princess Mary moved to Copenhagen to study the Danish language.

CARTELS BEHIND INSIDIOUS $1BN-A-YEAR INDUSTRY



Jacob Le from Fairfield wants to quit vaping. Picture: Jonathan Ng

They know it's bad but still risk it

EXCLUSIVE
Julie Cross

Young people say it is easy to get hooked on vaping, with nearly half of those who have tried it saying they are or have been addicted.

An exclusive survey of 15 to 24-year-old Aussies found a quarter have vaped and more than one in six vapers spent $100 a month on the habit.

They also say vaping is harmful with nine out of 10 believing e-cigarettes are more dangerous or as bad as ciggies.

The Big Youth Survey by Year13 – which helps young people transition to study or work after finishing school – also found more than seven in 10 are extremely concerned or very concerned about the long-term health effects of vaping.

Most back tough new laws banning single-use vapes, with just 6 per cent opposed.

The government banned the importation of disposable single-use vapes that came into force on January 1.

From March 1 the importation of all other vapes, irrespective of nicotine content or therapeutic claims, will also be banned.

The only way people can legally vape nicotine is by getting a doctor's prescription.

Year13 co-founder Saxon Phipps said it was not surprising the majority of young people supported the vape law changes because this demographic was very health conscious.

"Whilst about a quarter of young people admitted to vaping, the amount of young people vaping daily is about six times higher than those who smoke cigarettes daily so this is evidently concerning for young people seeing it around them," Mr Phipps said. "Even more concerning is that two fifths of young people who vape say they are addicted to it, meaning there's a high likelihood, close to 50 per cent, that anyone who starts vaping could become addicted."

Mr Phipps said the survey also shows just under two thirds of young people who vape have experienced one or multiple negative health effects from vaping like headaches, difficulty breathing, nausea, chest pain, heart palpitations and vomiting.

"I think in anyone's eyes that's worrying," he said. "For something which is sold as a device for recreational enjoyment it's causing a lot of ill health effects." Before the ban on single-use vapes, six out of 10 young people said it was very easy or easy to buy.

Most started vaping out of curiosity, while three in 10 started to help relieve stress, 18 per cent because they wanted to try the flavours and 15 per cent due to social influencers or celebrities.

Mr Phipps said the release of the second annual Year13 survey showed the number of daily vapers were down slightly on last year, and he expected vapers to trend downwards with the new laws.

Meanwhile, the survey also showed that 83 per cent of young people have never smoked, while 9 per cent said they did only occasionally.

One in 10 drink weekly, but most – 60 per cent – drink only occasionally or never. When it comes to drugs, almost eight in 10 said they never took drugs, with 13 per cent saying they did so only occasionally.

BIG YOUTH SURVEY

- 9 out of 10 believe vapes are more dangerous or as bad as smoking cigarettes.
- 8 in 10 support the ban on the importation of disposable single-use vapes.
- More than 70 per cent are extremely concerned or very concerned about the long-term health effects of vaping.
- A quarter of young people have vaped and 5 per cent of those vape daily.
- The number of young people vaping daily is six times higher than those smoking cigarettes.
- Two fifths of young vapers say they are addicted.
- Just under two thirds of young people who vape have experienced one or multiple negative health effects from vaping like headaches, difficulty breathing, nausea, chest pain, heart palpitations and vomiting.
- 6 out of 10 young people said it was very easy or easy to buy vapes before the ban.
- Three in 10 started vaping to relieve stress, 18 per cent wanted to try the flavours and 15 per cent due to social influencers or celebrities.

Source: Year13 Big Youth Survey based on more than 1000 Australians aged 15-24.

'It will probably kill me'

Julie Cross

Jacob Le started vaping at 15 and is now hooked.

The 19-year-old medical student from Western Sydney is on a waiting list, several months long, to see a doctor who can prescribe nicotine and help wean him off e-cigarettes.

He said a friend managed to quit that way. He said the medical profession was not equipped to deal with people like him who wanted to get off vapes, but need help to do so. The survey of people aged 15 to 24 found four out of 10 who have vaped are, or used to be, addicted.

"I want to quit because I know this will probably kill me one day, that's the cold hard truth," Mr Le said. "It can lead to cancer."

But he said the government needed to do more to stop young kids vaping to begin with.

"At first I thought I'd try it and then one day I passed a garage and bought my own," Mr Le said. Now he always has a vape on him and his habit sets him back around $25 a week.

"I wished I never touched it in the first place," he said. "I used to play rugby league, I nearly made the top grade, but then Covid hit.

"That's when I started vaping and I've never got back to my physical peak. I have gained weight." He said banning disposable vapes would force people to buy vapes or knock-off smokes on the black market.

Virgin cruise ship Brilliant Lady.

Aussies becoming obsessed with travelling by sea

Shireen Khalil

If you've noticed your social feeds inundated with cruising content, there's a big reason.

Aussies have become more obsessed with hitting the seas — and if you think it's just for "older people", think again.

On a per capita basis, Aussies are among the world's biggest cruisers with up to five per cent cruising each year.

"The number of Australians cruising has been growing strongly for several decades, and reached 1.35 million people in 2018," Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) managing director in Australasia Joel Katz said.

"Cruising has only recently returned to this part of the world, but we know the response from cruise fans has been very strong.

"We would expect numbers to return to near-record levels in the near future."

Mr Katz said cruising had a much broader appeal than people realised.

"It attracts all types of people from all age groups. The average age of an Australian cruise passenger has been dropping and it was just 49.7 years in 2022, which is down from 50.4 in 2019.

"Worldwide, the average age of a cruise passenger is just 46.5."

He said younger travellers made up a big proportion of cruise passengers – almost one third of Australian cruise passengers were aged under 40, and almost a quarter were aged under 30.

"Those aged in their 20s currently make up about eight per cent of cruise guests, and we can expect this to increase in coming years as this generation begins to travel more."

Younger travellers are showing the strongest interest in cruising in the future.

"CLIA's consumer research shows that of people who have cruises previously, Millennials are the most likely cruise again. 88 per cent of Millennials say they will cruise again, followed by Gen-Xers at 86 per cent."

He said even among those who had never cruised before, 77 per cent of Millennials say they are open to cruising — the highest level of any generation.

Labor hit by cost of living

The Albanese government's midterm malaise looks to have taken hold as voters continue to shun its handling of the continued cost of living crunch, new polling shows.

Conducted by Sydney-based pollsters Freshwater Strategy, the new electoral survey shows Labor and the Coalition are neck and neck in the two party preferred stakes at 50 per cent each.

Since the 2022 election, Labor has shed two points while the Coalition has risen by five points, the polling finds.

In a sign of mounting frustration with the government's strategy, just over half of all voters surveyed believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Anthony Albanese

The poll indicated that even as 74 per cent of voters identified cost of living pressures as their most pressing issue, 80 per cent say the Albanese government has failed to address the issue.

Household budgets have come under increased strain since early 2022 as soaring inflation sends real incomes in reverse and the Reserve Bank's aggressive round of interest rate hikes strains borrower's ability to meet mortgage repayments.

But as the government doubles down on its green energy strategy, voters are overwhelmingly sceptical of its ability to deliver on its promise to cut household power bills by $275 a year in 2025, when compared with prices before the 2022 election.

The poll found 43 per cent of Labor supporters, 61 per cent of the Greens supporters, and 81 per cent of Coalition supporters didn't expect Energy Minister Chris Bowen to deliver on this commitment.

The scepticism comes despite the Bureau of Statistics reporting that the government's interventions to take the edge of higher power prices have helped keep household costs lower.

The PM can find some solace in the polling data, however, with Mr Albanese (47 per cent) maintaining a lead over Opposition Leader Peter Dutton (38 per cent) on the preferred prime minister measure.

Smoking out the crims

Government's $188m boost to stop illegal tobacco imports

Jack Quail

A major crackdown to stem the illicit tobacco trade will be launched by the Albanese government to target the smuggling and sale of illegally imported cigarettes,

On Sunday, Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced a $188.5m boost deliver a new compliance program over the next four years, to tackle all aspects of the illicit tobacco trade.

Led by the Australian Border Force (ABF), in partnership with Commonwealth, state and territory governments, the funding will assist with targeting and disrupting illicit tobacco in source and transit countries before it reaches Australia.

Consumers can illegally purchase illicit cigarettes for as little as $20 for a pack of 20 at some vape stores, while at legal outlets, a similar product would cost roughly $50.

Under the new funding, the ABF will also introduce technological improvements, including artificial intelligence, to enhance the detection and disruption of illicit tobacco.

By official estimates, the forgone revenue to government coffers of the illicit activity is in excess of $3bn a year.

In 2024, authorities seized 1.7bn illegally imported cigarettes and almost 900 tonnes of loose leaf or "chop chop" tobacco products.

Dr Chalmers said the crackdown was intended to deter the consumption and distribution of illegal tobacco, and send a clear message to traffickers that their trade was a "serious crime".

"Illegal tobacco is more than a problem for the budget, it's a health challenge and it's a challenge to our border security," Dr Chalmers said.

"This new model strengthens our existing efforts by working in partnership with the states and territories and building on the Albanese government's tobacco excise package."

ABF head Michael Outram said his agency was committed to a hard-line stance on the illicit tobacco trade.

"We know illicit tobacco trade is systematically tied to serious and organised criminal groups, and we will work hand-in-hand with domestic and international partners to disrupt their activities," he said.

Authorities have blamed the illicit trade of tobacco as the reason behind a spate of tobacco store fire bombings in recent months, as rival syndicates vie for greater control of the lucrative market, which is then used to fund other illegal activities.

Health Minister Mark Butler said limiting illicit tobacco products was key to reducing the number of smokers.

"We cannot stand by and allow another generation of people to be lured into addiction and suffer the enormous health, economic and social consequences," he said.

Deputy opposition leader David Littleproud welcomed the measure but implored the government to increase regulation at the point of sale.

Kathleen Murry, of Sandford, outside of Hobart, stands on her award-winning lawn, now known as the 'world's ugliest lawn'. Picture: Supplied

Tassie home to 'world's ugliest lawn'

Jessica Wang

The accolade for the World's Ugliest Lawn has been awarded to a Tasmanian resident in a bizarre Swedish competition.

Dirt-ridden, pockmarked and dry, Kathleen Murray's garden took out the top prize, winning her a second-hand brown T-shirt donated by the 2023 winner which reads: "Proud owner of The World's Ugliest Lawn".

The competition, which began as a regional challenge in Sweden's Gotland island, aims to highlight the importance of water conservation, and stands against wasting water on keeping lawns lush and green.

The Sandford area, south-east of Hobart, is regularly hit by drought and water supply issues as its geography makes it difficult for the country to store groundwater.

Speaking to the ABC, Ms Murray said her entry was helped by three wild bandicoots who've taken over her property, decimating the greenery.

"I call them my wildlife of mass destruction, my WMDs," she said.

"I used to think they'd invaded my lawn but then I realised they'd actually liberated me from ever having to mow it ever again."

Get 'fun parts' tested

Tinder and Grindr will be used as part of a fresh push to encourage Aussies to get their "fun parts" tested amid a concerning rise in sexually transmitted diseases.

Health Minister Mark Butler launched the Beforeplay campaign on Sunday in a bid to encourage young Aussies to take their sexual health seriously. "One in six Australians will get an STI (sexually transmitted infection) and the rates of infection are rising, particularly among young people aged 20 to 34," he said. He said the nine-week campaign would help reduce the stigma around testing and prevention.

It will be rolled out on social media, dating apps, around universities and in bars and clubs. It will encourage Aussies to wear protection and book a check-up.

Succession's Sarah Snook

Emmy hopes for Aussie stars

Angie Raphael

Aussie television stars Sarah Snook and Elizabeth Debicki will be hoping to add Emmy Awards to their recent Golden Globe wins for Succession and The Crown, respectively, but both are facing stiff competition.

Snook is nominated for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for her celebrated performance in the critically acclaimed drama Succession.

She is competing against New Zealand actor Melanie Lynskey (Yellowjackets), Bella Ramsey (The Last of Us), Elisabeth Moss (The Handmaid's Tale), Sharon Horgan (Bad Sisters) and Keri Russell (The Diplomat).

Debicki won a Golden Globe for a supporting role on television in The Crown where she played the late Princess Diana. Her Emmy nomination is also for supporting actress in a drama series.

The first-time nominee faces competition from The White Lotus actresses Jennifer Coolidge, Meghann Fahy, Sabrina Impacciatore, Aubrey Plaza and Simona Tabasco, as well as Rhea Seehorn (Better Call Saul) and J. Smith-Cameron (Succession).

The 75th annual Emmy Awards will take place on Tuesday Australian time.

Hamas 'targets' Europe

Mossad foils plot to attack Israeli embassy in Sweden

TEL AVIV: A Hamas terror plot targeting Israel's embassy in Sweden and Jewish sites in Europe has been thwarted by Israeli intelligence agencies Mossad and Shin Bet, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The network, allegedly orchestrated by Hamas commanders in Lebanon, had plans for more attacks in Europe, involving the acquisition of drones and collaboration with European criminal organisations, Israel said.

:"Israel had discovered details on theatres of operation, terror targets, and on those involved in carrying out attacks

Benjamin Netanyahu

— from Hamas commanders in Lebanon to the last of the attackers in the operational infrastructure," Mr Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

This revelation follows a series of uncovered plots in Europe in recent weeks.

In December, European authorities arrested Hamas cells in Denmark, Germany, and Holland, suspecting their involvement in plotting attacks on Jewish targets.

Danish police found seven individuals linked to a foiled terror attack in December had Hamas connections, confirming Mr Netanyahu's assertion about Hamas expanding its operations into Europe.

"The alleged connection to Hamas confirms that the threat against Denmark is serious, but luckily we have a strong police and intelligence service doing their best to protect us every day," Danish Justice Minister Peter Hummelgaard said.

Meanwhile, Mr Netanyahu doubled down on his vows to defeat Hamas, as the UN marked the 100th day of the war, saying it was "staining humanity".

"The massive death, destruction, displacement, hunger, loss and grief of the last 100 days are staining our shared humanity," the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Philippe Lazzarini, said in the Gaza Strip.

And the International Court of Justice in The Hague last week heard arguments in a case launched by South Africa accusing Israel of breaching the UN Genocide Convention.

But Mr Netanyahu insisted no court or military foe could stop Israel from destroying Hamas.

"No one will stop us – not The Hague, not the Axis of Evil and no one else," he said.

"It is possible and necessary to continue until victory, and we will do it," he said, claiming most Hamas battalions in Gaza had been "eliminated".

Health officials in Gaza said recent Israeli strikes killed at least 60 people, while Israel said it struck dozens of rocket launchers that were "ready to be used" in central Gaza.

US sends 'message' to Iran on Houthis

SANAA: The US launched fresh strikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen as President Joe Biden said he had delivered a "private message" to Iran about its links to the group.

The strikes came a day after US and British forces hit scores of targets in Yemen, heightening fears that Israel's war with Palestinian Hamas militants could engulf the region.

The Houthis, who say they are acting in solidarity with Gaza, have carried out missile and drone attacks on what they deem Israeli-linked shipping on the key Red Sea trade route.

Joe Biden

Iran is suspected of supplying the Houthis with weapons and intelligence, but Tehran denies involvement. Nevertheless, Mr Biden said his government had given Iran a message.

"We delivered it privately and we're confident we're well-prepared," he said.

US Central Command said its forces attacked a Houthi radar site early on Saturday as "a follow-on action" related to the previous day's strikes.

A Houthi-allied military source said a site on the outskirts of the Red Sea port city of Hodeida which the rebels used to launch a rocket was hit.

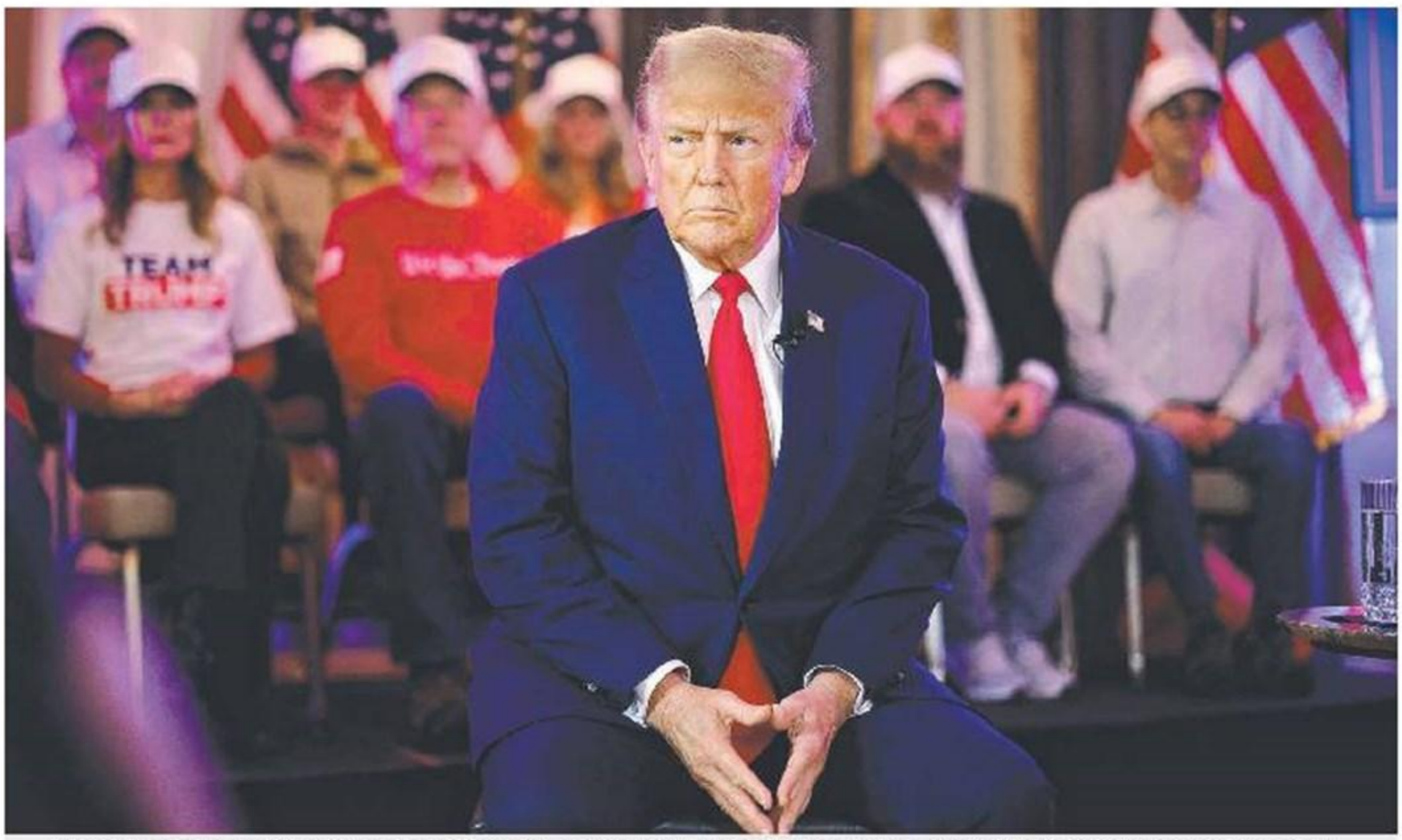
The Houthis' official media earlier said Al-Dailami airbase in Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa had been struck in the latest bombardment.

Rebel forces in north Sanaa had shut the area around the airbase and only residents with permits from neighbourhood chiefs were allowed to enter.

UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg urged "all involved" to avoid actions that would endanger maritime trade and "fuel regional tensions at this critical time".

Mr Grundberg noted "with serious concern" the impact of the "increasingly precarious regional context" on Yemen and called for diplomacy to be prioritised.

Britain, the United States and eight allies - including Australia - said strikes on Friday aimed to "de-escalate tensions", but the Huthis vowed to continue their attacks.



Sub-zero temperatures and blizzards forced Donald Trump into an indoor 'telerally' in Des Moines as the Iowa caucuses kick off the US election year. Picture: Getty

Election heats up in frigid Iowa caucuses

DES MOINES: Voters will venture into sub-zero temperatures on Monday to kick off the Republican presidential nomination race with the Iowa caucuses, the first major test of whether runaway front-runner Donald Trump is as much of a sure thing as he appears.

With a commanding lead in polls, the ex-president is expected easily to win the Midwestern state's first-in-the-nation vote as he bids to be the Republican standard-bearer against President Joe Biden in November.

But Iowans may have to contend with the coldest conditions in the modern era of presidential election campaigns, with blizzards and a potential wind chill of minus 32 degrees.

Trump and his leading rivals, Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis, were forced to cancel appearances because of the weather as the threat to the turnout added intrigue to the campaign.

Despite his poll strength, Trump's multiple legal cases still hang over him.

"If DeSantis's massive ground effort, coupled with a recent Haley surge, can drag Trump under 50 percent by several points, that will be the first meaningful sign that Trump can be defeated," said political analyst Alex Avetoom.

Buried alive in landslide

BOGOTA: At least 33 people have been killed in landslides in Colombia, including many who had taken shelter in a house after the road they were travelling on was cut off.

"I deeply regret the death of 33 people in this tragedy, mostly children, according to preliminary reports," vice president Francia Marquez wrote on social media.

Firefighters, soldiers and local residents slogged through deep mud and debris in hopes of finding survivors, while relatives stood nearby.

Many travellers had left their cars to take shelter in a house near the municipality of Carmen de Atrato.

"But unfortunately, a landslide came and buried them," said a local official.

Images on social media showed part of a mountain breaking loose and crashing down onto a line of cars.

Soldiers patrol Ecuador's streets

Hostages freed as chaos reigns

QUITO: More than 40 Ecuador prison officials taken hostage by inmates have been freed, as the country grapples with a brutal campaign of gang terror.

The 24 guards and 17 administrative employees had been released, the SNAI prisons agency said, while 133 guards and three employees continue to be held hostage.

The workers were taken captive after President Daniel Noboa last week launched a military takedown of criminal groups, sparking a deadly confrontation with narco gangs.

The crisis was triggered by the escape from Guayaquil prison of one of the country's most powerful narco bosses, Jose Adolfo Macias, followed by prison riots, hostage-taking and attacks on police.

At least 19 people have died in the violence, including a guard killed on Saturday in clashes with inmates in El Oro near the border with Peru.

According to the latest official report, 859 suspects have been arrested, 25 escaped detainees have been recaptured, five "terrorists" shot dead and 57 kidnapped people have been released.

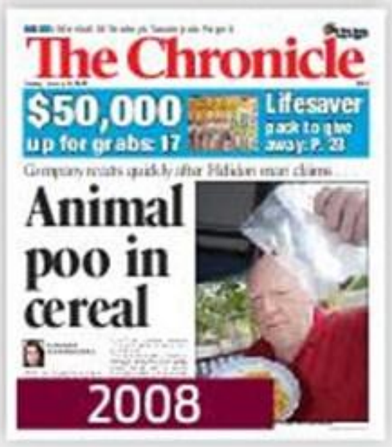
A chilling video filmed in Machala prison shows the corpse of a prisoner wrapped in plastic thrown into the street from inside the jail.

Opinion OURS & YOURS

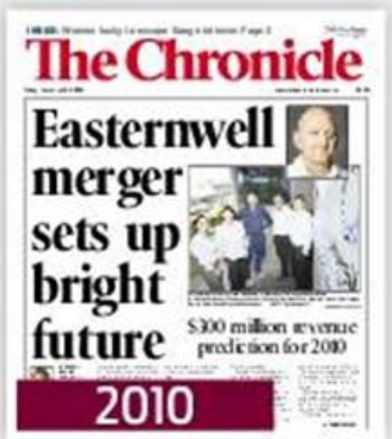
The Chronicle
WIN $50,000
DON'T MISS OUT. PAGES 2 AND 4
Explosive threat to hospital
2007

LOOKING back

We look back at front pages of The Chronicle published on this date in years gone by.


The Chronicle
$50,000 up for grabs: 17
Lifesaver back to give away: P. 23
Animal poo in cereal
2008

The Chronicle
WIN TICKETS TO SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE
BONUS TV GUIDE
We're RED hot
Harvey Norman joins $55m city property
2009


The Chronicle
Eastern well merger sets up bright future
$300 million revenue prediction for 2010
2010

FIGHTING BACK
2011

Letters & Texts

Australia Day outrage

I see Peter Dutton and his more hysterical political and media supporters are going hammer and tongs accusing Woolworths of being "woke" and unAustralian for declining to stock Chinese made Australian plastic flags and foam stubby holders.

I think I know why. Pete was clearly looking forward to buying a new Australia Day mullet wig from Woolies to really enter into the spirit of Australia Day this year. I'm with him there. He'd look grouse in a mullet eating a lamb snag sarnie.

But why no assault from this great Man O'Faith on the supermarket chains that threaten Christendom's very existence with their unAustralian stocking of hot cross buns from Boxing Day right up to Easter?

This is a far more important issue of clear national security. Peter needs to seek advice on inappropriate hot cross bun sales from the originator of Australian values, John Howard.

HUGH WILSON, Toowoomba

Woolies boycott

Regardless of Peter Dutton's request to boycott Woolworths for not stocking Australian flags etc, it won't effect the economy for it is all made in China.

The day will be recognised, maybe not by the yes voters, but everybody gets a holiday. Beauty.

Some of those migrants who became Australian citizens should respect the Australian flag more so.

WILLIAM MEADOWCROFT, Toowoomba

Climate change

Recently I met a woman visiting Toowoomba from Port Hedland.

She told me she constantly laughs when she hears about climate change and heatwaves.

She said people should visit her city for a look.

The climate never changes and it's always a stinking hot heatwave. I laughed with her.

People can be gullible. In my 62 years here we have always had hot humid conditions in spring/summer, with 30-35 degree days and on average a weekly thunderstorm.

So where is Toowoomba's change?

Maybe in winter.

I believe God will control our weather, not a coal power station or 10,000 windmills.

JAMES BARTLETT, Toowoomba

Still shop there

Neil's comment (TC, 13/01) nearly made me choke on my sushi.

Yes, Woolworths not displaying Australia Day merchandise might be un-Australian, but no, it won't stop me from going there to do my shopping, as I always do.

Perhaps Neil can find a better place to do his weekly shopping that is convenient for him.

Alas, fewer Woolworths customers will make it much easier for me to get in and out quickly.

DAVE FREDERICKS, Toowoomba

Sorry Day

I can understand why the invasion of the Eora people's Country (note upper case "C") and the establishment of the NSW penal colony doesn't seem much of an Australia Day to many Australians.

Personally, I think it's a day we should mark with solemnity as Sorry Day.

Offering a genuine apology takes courage and goodwill. Genuinely accepting or seriously considering accepting an apology is also an act of courage and goodwill.

For people who never apologise and those preoccupied by the hysterical silliness we now call the "culture wars", this will be an anathema – "divisive". But, for most people, genuine apologies, courage and goodwill are unifiers.

As we learn more about our colonial history and how it affects us today, I think marking Sorry Day would act as an anchor for our evolving national maturity. As we evolve as a nation that understands itself better, the relevance and meaning of the "sorry" would evolve.

That something so important has devolved into an attempt to create an argument about where we buy plastic plates (that will end up as nothing more than pollution, poisoning our natural environment and our citizenry) says a lot about who we are as a nation nearly 250 years after Captain Phillip brought poverty-stricken, petty criminals across the world because British governments were incapable of effective governance at home.

SANDRA COCHRANE, Toowoomba

SMS TO EDITOR

The government is hiding the true cost of electric vehicles. Due to their incredibly increased weight, they go through tyres much faster, also due to weight multi-storey car parks cost around 25% more to construct. Due to their risk of self combustion, buildings they park under must have increased fire protection. There is physically not enough power in most buildings to power more than one EV, most small towns, Do not have the electrical infrastructure to support rapid charging. Finally when you add up the true carbon footprint after allowing for all materials, they take about 10 years to become carbon neutral. Which is about the life of a battery. (Which disposing of is soon to be a world wide problem). Just saying.

4x4lover, Mt Lofty

Cheques are soon to be a thing of the past. This may be a good thing after what happened. I have been waiting for a month for a cheque to be cleared and have had a reminder notice from my head office in Victoria. I in posted it to Brisbane as per invoice only to have it returned to me with notice in envelope "not known at all this address". It was so clearly their PO Box from their invoice. I B paid it where a cheque would have been easier.

Pensioner, Toowoomba

WRITE TO US: Make sure to include your name, address and phone number if verification is required. Only your name and suburb will be printed. Please note we reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. **PRIVACY POLICY:** Our privacy policy at https://preferences.news.com.au/privacy includes important information about our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information (including to provide you with targeted advertising based on your online activities). It explains that if you do not provide us with information we have requested from you, we may not be able to provide you with the goods and services you require. It also explains how you can access or seek correction of your personal information, how you can complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how we will deal with a complaint of that nature.

Twitter @the_chronicle

Facebook facebook.com/TheTooowombaChronicle

Email letters@thechronicle.com.au

Mobile 0437 875 203

What do Europeans know about trusty Aussie ute?

Vikki Campion

I tried to buy a ute yesterday. Not just any ute, but a ute that meets the new European standards Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen snuck in three days before Christmas.

We are told how fabulous they are on paper, so I was keen to actually give one a run around the farm.

The sales girl ran through her nationwide database and said: "I am really sorry, but currently, I am unable to suggest any models that qualify for Euro 6D standards."

So I went down to my local regional car dealership and asked them if any of them had even seen one of these wonderful utes that we are told meet Euro 6D standards at any road shows or events, and not one of them had.

"Don't sweat it," the dealer told me. "We will all be driving EVs."

And then he laughed and laughed at his own joke.

We don't have a single ute that qualifies for Euro 6D on the Australian market right now – and phasing in over next year, that's all we will eventually be allowed to buy brand new.

Rather than letting the market have a look at these new utes before the new regulations are enforced, they are telling us to buy a vehicle that nobody has even been able to take for a test drive.

Just have a look at the specs.

The Euro 6D standard equivalent of one of Australia's best-selling vehicles, the Toyota HiLux, that is sold in the UK has a 2.4-litre engine. That's about half the capacity of the Toyota LandCruiser we use to spray weeds on the farm at the moment.

That engine is just dandy on a sealed road in the middle of the city but will it be enough when you have weight on the back and need to go up a rough track uphill?

We will be forced into far less powerful vehicles thanks to Bowen and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who between the two of them wouldn't know how to change a spark plug.

For farmers, plumbers, builders, couriers and delivery people, the work vehicle is an appendage of the body. If you can't move it, lift it, carry it, or pull it out, the ute will – or once would. After 2025, buying a new ute that can carry tools and half a tonne of concrete up a hill will start to become a distant memory.

While Albanese's ministry has begun each day this week earnestly talking about the soaring cost of living, a few days before Christmas they dropped in the sneaky regulation to ostensibly save the planet that will make vehicles, fuel and services even more expensive.

Consultation with motorists ran for less than one month in the lead-up to Christmas 2022.

Then, under the cover of Christmas in 2023, it changed the reg to eventually ban the sale of new cars that do not meet specific European 6D standards – all as part of this inane fascination with trying to imitate Europe.

The average size of a farm in Europe is less than 50 acres. Even small farms in Australia are 10 times that size. The average farm in Australia is more than 200 times that size, and the average Australian cropping farm is more than 300 times a European one.

We are nothing like Europe. Not only are our farms vastly bigger, but our terrain is harder to traverse. An electric vehicle that can hurtle around the undulating 50 acres of a European dairy farm will quickly lose its spark running up the steep rocky mountains of Weabonga carrying 500 litres of weed spray.

The trusty Toyota HiLux.

A plumber who starts a day fixing a leak and then needs to cart out half a tonne of asphalt isn't going to get very far without grunt.

Anything that makes their work tools less effective will make your bill to fix the pipe more expensive – or will make them poorer.

In announcing the changes, Mr Bowen claimed European standards would cut 18 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

The federal government ignored the pleas of manufacturers, who argued that newer vehicle technology is incompatible with Australia's current fuel.

Even right-hand drive manufacturers such as Toyota argued the "regulatory system introduced needs to take into consideration the unique conditions of the Australian market, and therefore it is not appropriate to apply the same parameters as used in overseas markets". Such as Europe.

Keep in mind that Australia is 1 per cent of the global car market.

How many manufacturers will make specific right-hand drive utility trucks for us that meet European standards?

My long summer break was truly frightful

Amber Petty

As Australia slowly emerges from its longer-than-any-country summer break, many of us have potentially spent a shameful amount of time horizontal, watching movies.

And, like me, you might have discovered there's a hell of a lot of disturbing content that's likely to keep you awake at night, well after the credits have rolled.

For a nation like ours, known for being laid-back, outdoorsy, good at kicking balls and swimming for gold medals, we're also world-class at being very, very creepy.

Growing up as a kid in the 1970s and '80s, I vowed never to visit America.

My calculations came after watching the likes of Evil Dead, The Exorcist, and The Amityville Horror, which led me to believe there were too many old houses, and most of them had latchkey demons that could turn up at any second.

And no matter how many Catholic priests you had on speed dial, things ended badly.

Holidaying this summer with friends, and a gaggle of kids, I was lured into the TV room on more than one occasion.

Mostly it was through curiosity, occasionally by invitation, because I like to think I'm 'that' aunty.

Perched on the sliver of sofa left unoccupied – the kids cling to each other like larvae – I was given a tutorial on the whole horror movie genre.

Despite staying true to my long-held "no demon" policy, what held me in the dark (knowing I'd pay dearly later) was my amazement at how artistically advanced these films are these days.

And, more so, how many Aussies have infiltrated this once US-dominated genre.

While I've been navigating adulthood, albeit still as 'that' aunty, Australia has been giving the effortlessly psychotic Americans a run for their money – from Insidious (2010), directed by James Wan with characters written by Leigh Whannell, starring Rose Byrne and Angus Sampson, to Babadook (2014), written and directed by Jennifer Kent, starring Essie Davis.

And the kids' favourite was Talk to Me (2022), written by Danny Philippou and Bill Hinzman, and starring Miranda Otto and Sophie Wilde.

We've come a long way since Lara Bingle famously looked down the barrel of the camera, and asked the world, "So where the bloody hell are you?"

If you've just spent the summer watching the above, the answer might well be "under the bloody bed" or "moving to Fiji".

Amber Petty is a Melbourne writer

ON THIS *day*

69 Roman Emperor Servius Sulpicius Galba, who succeeded Nero in 68AD, is assassinated by the Praetorian Guard in the Roman Forum.

1559 Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England.

1790 Mutineers aboard the ship HMS Bounty and their Tahitian partners arrive at Pitcairn Island, where they hope to establish a colony.

1797 James Hetherington, a London haberdasher, is fined for wearing his newest creation, the top hat.

1834 A mutiny on Norfolk Island by 162 convicts, is put down by the captain of the guard, Foster Fyans. Two convicts are killed, seven are fatally injured and another 13 will hang.

1894 Australia's first steel rolling mill opens at the Eskbank Ironworks, near Lithgow.

1922 The Irish Free State is established under Michael Collins.

1943 The Pentagon is completed in Washington.

1967 The Rolling Stones appear on The Ed Sullivan Show on US TV network CBS. CBS critics don't like words to the song, Let's Spend the Night Together, so order the group to change the words to Let's Spend Some Time Together.

2001 Wikipedia, a free internet-based encyclopaedia that operates under an open-source management style, debuts. It was founded by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger.

2008 Sea Shepherd activists Giles Lane and Benjamin Potts are detained on Japanese whaling vessel Yashin Maru No 2 after jumping aboard in protest against whaling in the Southern Ocean.

2009 US Airways flight 1549, piloted by Captain Chesley ("Sully") Sullenberger III, lands in the Hudson River (above) after the plane flew into a flock of Canada geese shortly after takeoff, resulting in severe damage to the plane's engines. There were no fatalities.

Harry a 'living legend'

Tiffany Bakker

Prince Harry is facing new backlash after it was announced he would be named a "living legend" and inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame, which already features iconic names including moon explorers Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong.

Controversial author – and reported Sussex mouthpiece – Omid Scobie said the Duke of Sussex would be honoured at a ceremony in Los Angeles on January 19.

Prince Harry

"Prince Harry is to be inducted into the Living Legends of Aviation Hall of Fame, joining other aviators who have made "significant contributions in the aerospace industry," Scobie wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

The Duke of Sussex is being honoured as an aviation legend due to his experience flying as a pilot in the British Army, the New York Post reported. Prince Harry served for a decade in the British military and completed two tours of Afghanistan where he flew in combat missions.

The exiled royal, who rose to the rank of Captain during his time in the military, famously spoke of his time in the army in his controversial memoir, Spare, in which he called his victims "chess pieces taken off a board, bad guys eliminated before they kill the good guys".

Prince Harry is also the founder of the Invictus Games, for which he is also set to be honoured at the ceremony, which will be hosted by John Travolta as the "Official Ambassador of Aviation."

Prince Harry won't be the only big name as Amazon boss Jeff Bezos, Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford, Morgan Freeman, Elon Musk, and Saudi Prince Sultan bin Salman Al Saud will also be honoured.

Other space legends such as US navy pilot Fred George and former world speed record holder Steve Hinton will also be inducted.

– with the New York Post

MPs unite for funding fight to tame monster

Maddy Suy, 9, who is battling a DIPG brain tumour, dressing up on her Disney cruise.

Cydonee Mardon

Labor MP and pediatrician Mike Freelander says Australian researchers are "on the cusp" of major advances in battling the "monster" brain cancer that kills 20 to 25 Aussie kids each year, and is confident the federal health minister will find the funds to help them give parents hope.

Politicians on both sides of government have met with parents who have lost their sons and daughters to the cancer known as DIPG, as well as researchers who say $21m can help them double survival in the next five years.

While refusing to comment specifically on the submission or $21m plea put forward by researchers, including Professor Matt Dun and Professor David Ziegler, Dr Freelander said he was sure Federal Health Minister Mark Butler would "do everything he can" to find funding white balancing the needs of all cancer research.

"I'm a pediatrician, so I have looked after these kids. It is pretty terrible watching what happens to them," Dr Freelander said.

"Up until now we really haven't had options for treatments that work, other than radiation therapy that doesn't change prognosis that much and they die a horrible death.

"I've seen that in some of my patients. We now have tools that will give us the opportunity to provide treatment that I'm sure will give us the opportunity to improve prognosis in the not too distant future."

Dr Freelander – who co-chairs the Parliamentary Friends of Childhood Cancer Cure group with Nationals MP Anne Webster, also a doctor – said he knows Mr Butler wants to help Professor Dun and the national team of DIPG researchers continue to develop treatments.

Dr Webster called on the Health Minister to act now.

"I can't understand when it's such an awful disease with no cures around the world, yet in Australia with Professor Matt Dun there is so much to hope for and they need funding," Dr Webster said.

"The fact Australian researchers have received $124m for leukaemia research over the last five, six years shows why they are streets ahead in terms of cures and treatments, and here we are with a disease that nobody in the world has cures for and people in Australia, the leaders in research, yet we can't get the funding.

"The right decision needs to be made and that's to fund this research."

Opposition Health spokeswoman Senator Anne Ruston told the Telegraph she would "ensure that if this Government hasn't adequately acted on the DIPG request, that we would."

"Groundbreaking and dedicated researchers like Professor Matt Dun must be supported. Although we support the Government's $700,000 announcement for DIPG research which was made in November, there is more that can be done," she said.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has said he will "consider his options" after "productive" meetings with researchers and family members.

The families are becoming increasingly frustrated with the delays by the Minister in assessing their joint submission for funding.

Since the Telegraph launched the Maddy's Wish campaign in the support of the families' fight for funding, several of the children have sadly deteriorated. But one of them, nine-year-old Maddy Suy, is busy living life to the fullest despite her worsening symptoms.

Just home from a four-day Disney Cruise with her family, Maddy got to do karaoke, mingle with all her Disney favourites and dress up as a princess.

This summer, enjoy full digital access for about this much watermelon

Every story, video and podcast for only $1 a week for the first 4 weeks.

Min. cost $4. New customers only.*

Call 1800 037 549 or Subscribe with Google

The Chronicle
We're for you

*This offer is for Full Digital Access and costs $4 charged for the first 4 weeks, then automatically renews to $28 charged every 4 weeks. Renewals occur unless cancelled as per full Terms and Conditions. Each payment, once made, is non-refundable, subject to law. Not in conjunction with any other offer. New customers only. Prices after the introductory pricing period may be varied as per full Terms and Conditions. See www.thechronicle.com.au/subscription-terms for full details.

TCHE012O1MA - V1

ABC TV (CH2)

6.00 News Breakfast.
9.00 ABC News Mornings.
10.00 Movin' To The Country. (R)
11.00 Antiques Roadshow. (R)
12.00 ABC News At Noon.
1.00 Vera. (M) (R)
2.30 Back Roads. (R)
3.00 The Cook And The Chef. (R)
3.25 Tenable. (R)
4.15 Antiques Roadshow. (R)
5.15 Love Your Garden. Presented by Alan Titchmarsh.

6.00 Back Roads: Lightning Ridge, NSW. (R)
6.30 Hard Quiz. (PG) (R) Hosted by Tom Gleeson.
7.00 ABC News. A look at the top stories of the day.
7.30 7.30. Presented by Laura Tingle.
8.00 Revenge: Our Dad The Nazi Killer. (M) Part 1 of 2.
9.00 You Can't Ask That: Former Cult Members. (M) (R) Former cult members share their stories.
9.35 Louis Theroux: Transgender Kids. (M) (R) Louis Theroux meets transgender kids.
10.35 ABC Late News.
10.50 War On Waste. (PG) (R)
11.55 Changing Ends. (PG) (R)
12.15 Love Your Garden. (R)
1.05 Tenable. (R)
1.50 Rage. (MA15+)
4.40 The Durrells. (PG) (R)
5.30 7.30. (R)

SEVEN (CH6)

6.00 Sunrise.
9.00 The Morning Show Summer Series. (PG)
11.30 Seven Morning News.
12.00 Home And Away. (PG) (R)
2.00 Border Security: International. (PG) (R)
2.30 Surf Patrol. (R)
3.00 The Chase. (R)
4.00 Seven News At 4.
5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur.

6.00 Seven Local News. [BRIS] Seven News.
6.30 Seven News.
7.00 Home And Away. (PG) Tane misreads Harper's friendship.
7.35 Cricket. Big Bash League. Game 38. Melbourne Stars v Hobart Hurricanes. From the MCG.
10.00 Motorway Patrol. (PG) A motorist is running out of petrol and running from the pump. An officer rescues a kitten from the fast lane.
10.30 Highway Cops. (M) A dog lives up to its name.
11.00 Autopsy USA: Jeffrey Epstein. (MA15+) (R) A look at the death of Jeffrey Epstein.
12.00 Bates Motel. (M) (R) Emma and Dylan bond.
2.00 Home Shopping. (R)
4.00 NBC Today. News and current affairs.
5.00 Seven Early News.
5.30 Sunrise.

NINE (CH8)

6.00 Today. The latest in news, current affairs, sport, politics, entertainment, fashion, health and lifestyle.
9.00 Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show. Reviews, previews, interviews, highlights and opinions from the Australian Open at Melbourne Park.
10.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Day 2. From Melbourne Park. Hosted by Tony Jones.
3.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Afternoon 2. From Melbourne Park. Hosted by Roz Kelly.

6.00 9News.
7.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Night 2. From Melbourne Park. Hosted by Tony Jones.
10.00 Tennis. Australian Open. Late-night 2. From Melbourne Park. Hosted by Tony Jones.
11.00 New Amsterdam. (M) (R) Bloom, Iggy and Reynolds rally around Max.
12.00 Family Law. (M) (R) Abby and Daniel represent a trans teen.
1.00 #TextMeWhenYouGetHome: April Millsap. (M) (R) Looks at the disappearance of April Millsap.
2.00 Destination Australia: Rottnest Island. (R) Presented by Jo Beth Taylor and Scherri-Lee Biggs.
2.30 Global Shop. (R) Home shopping.
3.00 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R)
4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. (PG) Religious program.
4.30 Explore TV: Norfolk Island. (R)
5.00 9News Early.
5.30 Today.

TEN (CH5)

6.00 The Talk. (PG) (Series return) **7.00** Everyday Gourmet. (R) **7.30** Ent. Tonight. (R) **8.00** Farm To Fork. (R) **8.30** GCBC. (R) **9.00** Judge Judy. (PG) (R) **9.30** Bold. (PG) (R) **10.00** The Yes Experiment. (R) **10.30** Luxury Escapes. (R) **11.00** Food Trail: South Africa. (R) **11.30** My Market Kitchen. (PG) (R) **12.00** 10 News First: Midday. **1.00** Dr Phil. (PG) (R) **2.00** Jamie Oliver: Cooking For Less. (R) **3.00** Entertainment Tonight. **3.30** Farm To Fork. **4.00** Neighbours. (PG) **4.30** The Bold And The Beautiful. (PG) **5.00** 10 News First.

6.30 The Project. The hosts and guest panellists take a look at the day's news, events and hot topics.
7.30 Gladiators. (PG) (New Series) Everyday Aussie challengers take on the gladiators in a series of iconic events, as well as brand-new challenges.
8.55 FBI: Most Wanted. (M) (R) The team pursues the suspects responsible for an explosion at an Ohio energy plant and are led to a crypto company with enemies looking to take it down. Remy and his sister close a chapter in their lives.
10.50 The Project. (R) The hosts and guest panellists take a look at the day's news, events and hot topics.
12.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. (PG) Hosted by Stephen Colbert.
1.00 Home Shopping. (R)
4.30 CBS Mornings. Morning news and talk show.

SBS (CH3)

6.00 WorldWatch. **9.00** Destination Flavour. (R) **9.10** Cook Up Bitesize. (R) **9.15** World's Most Secret Homes. (PG) (R) **10.10** Paddington Station 24/7. (R) **11.00** Vienna: Empire, Dynasty And Dream. (PG) (R) **12.10** WorldWatch. **1.00** PBS News Weekend. **1.30** Al Jazeera News Second Edition. **2.00** Destination Flavour China Bitesize. (R) **2.05** Tony Robinson: WWII By Drone. (M) (R) **3.00** Mastermind Aust. (R) **3.30** The Cook Up. (R) **4.00** The Supervet. **5.00** Motor Racing. Dakar Rally. Stage 7. Highlights.

6.00 Mastermind Australia. (R) Presented by Marc Fennell.
6.30 SBS World News.
7.30 Jonathan Ross' Myths And Legends: Wales. (PG) Part 2 of 4.
8.25 Isle Of Wight: Jewel Of The South. The locals put their best foot forward for the final of the island-wide talent competition.
9.20 The Secret Life Of Lighthouses: Muckle Flugga. (PG) (R) Part 2 of 3. Rob Bell visits the impossible lighthouse at Muckle Flugga in the Shetland Islands.
10.15 SBS World News Late.
10.45 Blanca. (MA15+) A boy is found dead in an ancient manor.
11.45 Reyka. (MA15+) (R)
3.40 Going Places With Ernie Dingo. (R)
4.40 Bamay. (R)
5.00 NHK World English News Morning.
5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.

Classifications: (P) Preschoolers (C) Children (G) General Viewing (PG) Parental Guidance (M) Mature Audiences (MA15+) Mature Audiences (AV15+) Mature Audiences Only - Extreme Adult Violence (R) Repeat. Programs are correct at the time of print and are subject to change by the networks.

ABC TV PLUS (CH22)

6.00 Children's Programs. **5.15** Supertato. **5.20** The Adventures Of Paddington. **5.35** Kya And The Kimoja Heroes. **5.45** Hey Duggee. **5.55** Octonauts. **6.10** Pfffirates. **6.20** Bluey. **6.30** Ben And Holly's Little Kingdom. **6.40** Andy's Prehistoric Adventures. **6.55** Shaun The Sheep. **7.05** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **7.20** Bluey. **7.30** Spicks And Specks. **8.00** Would I Lie To You? **8.30** MythBusters. **9.20** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. **10.55** Louis Theroux's LA Stories. **11.55** Would I Lie To You? **12.30** Late Programs.

9GO! (CH81)

6.00 Children's Programs. **11.00** Movie: Pokémon: The Rise Of Darkrai. (2007) **12.45** Children's Programs. **1.00** Rich House, Poor House. **2.00** Bewitched. **2.30** Full House. **3.00** Kenan. **4.00** Family Ties. **4.30** The Addams Family. **5.00** Bewitched. **5.30** WIN News. **6.00** Tennis. Australian Open. Night 2. **7.00** The Nanny. **7.30** Seinfeld. **8.30** Movie: Assault On Precinct 13. (2005) **10.35** Seinfeld. **11.35** The Emily Atack Show. **12.15** Under The Dome. **1.10** Love After Lockup. **2.00** I Dream Of Jeannie. **2.30** Full House. **3.00** Bakugan. **3.30** Beyblade Burst: Quad Drive. **4.00** Late Programs.

10 PEACH (CH52)

6.00 Big Bang. **10.30** Friends. **1.00** Two And A Half Men. **1.30** Ghosts. **3.30** King Of Queens. **4.30** Becker. **5.30** Frasier.
6.30 Neighbours.
7.00 The Big Bang Theory.
8.30 Two And A Half Men. Charlie worries about commitment.
10.00 Rules Of Engagement.
11.00 Frasier.
12.00 Shopping. **1.30** South Park. **2.30** Rules Of Engagement. **3.30** Bold. **4.30** Shopping.

SBS VICELAND (CH31)

6.00 WorldWatch. **9.30** Small Business Secrets. **10.00** Front Up. **12.05** The Kimberley Cruise: The Full Journey. **2.15** Planet A. **3.05** Most Expensivest. **3.35** BBC News At Ten. **3.55** ABC World News Tonight With David Muir. **4.20** ABC America This Week. **5.15** PBS News Weekend. **5.45** The Joy Of Painting With Bob Ross. **6.15** The Fast History Of. **6.40** Jeopardy! **7.30** NITV News Update. **7.35** 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. **8.30** Taskmaster. **9.25** Two Weeks To Live. **10.25** Scrubs. **11.25** Hoarders. **1.05** The Devil You Know. **1.55** Shrill. **2.25** NHK World English News. **5.00** Al Jazeera Newshour.

ABC ME (CH23)

6.00 Children's Programs. **3.25** Dennis & Gnasher: Unleashed! **3.40** The Deep. **4.00** Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. **4.15** Bluey. **4.20** Odd Squad. **4.45** Little Lunch. **5.00** Popularity Papers. **5.25** Miraculous: Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir. **5.45** Hotel Transylvania. **6.00** Spooky Files. **6.25** Welcome To Cardboard City. **6.30** Operation Ouch! **7.00** Horrible Histories. **7.30** Shaun The Sheep. **7.35** The Penguins Of Madagascar. **8.00** The Legend Of Korra. **8.25** Jade Armor. **8.45** Mustangs FC. **9.10** School Of Rock. **9.35** Mythbusters "There's Your Problem!". **10.10** Rage. **11.15** Close.

9GEM (CH82)

6.00 Gideon's Way. **7.00** Creflo Dollar Ministries. **7.30** Skippy The Bush Kangaroo. **8.00** TV Shop: Home Shopping. **9.00** Australian Open Tennis Pre-Show. **10.00** Tennis. Australian Open. Day 2. **5.00** Tennis. Australian Open. Night 2.
10.00 Death In Paradise. A policeman is murdered on an island.
11.00 Madam Secretary. ISIL terrorists threaten to destroy a dam.
12.00 Manifest. **1.00** Edgar Wallace Mysteries. **2.20** Explore. **2.30** Gideon's Way. **3.30** Seaway. **4.30** My Favorite Martian. **5.00** Animal Tales.

10 BOLD (CH53)

6.00 Home Shopping. **8.00** Luxury Escapes. **8.30** All 4 Adventure. **9.30** Reel Action. **10.30** JAG. **12.30** Star Trek: Voyager. **2.30** Jake And The Fatman. **3.30** Diagnosis Murder. **5.30** JAG.
7.30 Bull. Bull is asked to help a teachers' union.
8.30 NCIS. With the help of the coast guard, Gibbs and the team investigate the murder of a marine on a dinner cruise.
10.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. The girlfriend of a former officer is kidnapped.
12.15 Shopping. **2.15** Diagnosis Murder. **4.05** JAG.

SBS FOOD (CH33)

6.00 Morning Programs. **12.30** Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life. **1.00** Greater Mekong. **1.30** Flour Power. **2.00** My Greek Table. **2.30** United Plates Of America. **3.30** Top Chef. **4.30** My Market Kitchen. **5.00** Everyday Gourmet. **5.30** Rick Stein's Cornwall. **6.00** Food Safari Earth. **6.30** Lidia's Kitchen. **7.00** The Cook Up. **7.30** Shane Delia's Spice Journey. **8.00** Luke Nguyen's India. **8.30** Eva Longoria: Searching For Mexico. **9.30** Dine With Me UK. **10.30** The Cook Up. **11.00** Bizarre Foods. **11.30** Cook And The Chef. **12.00** Late Programs.

ABC NEWS (CH24)

6.00 News. **8.00** News. **11.00** News. **1.00** ABC News Day. **2.00** News. **4.00** ABC News Hour. **6.00** National News. **6.30** Evening News. **7.00** News Tonight. **7.30** Australian Story. **8.00** ABC Nightly News. **8.25** Foreign Correspondent. **9.00** The World. **9.30** 7.30. **10.00** News. **10.30** The Business. **11.00** News. **11.30** Aust Story. **12.00** News. **12.15** 7.30. **12.45** Camel Capers. **1.00** DW News. **1.15** News. **1.30** Foreign Correspondent. **2.00** DW News. **2.30** The World. **3.00** DW News. **3.30** 7.30. **4.00** DW News. **4.20** Camel Capers. **4.30** Landline Summer. **5.00** News.

9LIFE (CH83)

6.00 Flipping Down South. **7.00** Sledgehammer. **8.00** Build It Forward. **9.00** Zombie House Flipping. **10.00** House Hunters. **11.00** The Garden Revolution. **11.30** Getaway. **12.00** Flipping Down South. **1.00** Flipping 101 With Tarek El Moussa. **2.00** Zombie House Flipping. **3.00** The Block. **4.00** The Jennie Garth Project. **4.30** Martha Knows Best. **5.00** Build It Forward. **6.00** House Hunters Int. **7.00** House Hunters. **8.30** Christina On The Coast. **9.30** Flip Or Flop. **10.30** Mexico Life. **11.30** House Hunters. **12.30** House Hunters Int. **1.00** Christina On The Coast. **2.00** Late Programs.

NICKELODEON (CH54)

6.00 Morning Programs. **7.15** PAW Patrol. **8.30** Blue's Clues & You! **8.55** Santiago Of The Seas. **9.20** Guppies. **10.10** Shimmer And Shine. **10.35** Ready Set Dance. **10.45** Ryan's Mystery Playdate. **11.10** Blaze And The Monster Machines. **12.00** PAW Patrol. **2.05** TMNT. **2.30** SpongeBob. **4.15** The Casagrandes. **4.40** The Loud House. **5.05** The Thundermans. **5.30** Danger Force. **6.00** The Middle. **7.30** Friends. **8.30** Movie: Never Too Late. (2020) James Cromwell, Jacki Weaver. **10.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters. **11.30** Friends. **12.00** Late Programs.

NITV (CH34)

6.00 Morning Programs. **11.10** Ray Charles At Salle Pleyel. **12.00** Movie: 20 Feet from Stardom. (2013) **1.35** Bamay. **2.05** Bamay. **2.30** The Cook Up. **3.00** Motown Magic. **3.25** The World According To Grandpa. **3.35** The Magic Canoe. **4.00** Toi Time. **4.30** Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. **5.00** Our Stories. **5.15** Our Stories. **5.30** Stories From The Land. **6.00** Bamay. **6.30** News. **6.40** Volcanic Odysseys. **7.30** Who Do You Think You Are? **8.30** Living Black. **9.00** Movie: Backroads. (1977) **10.00** Movie: Jason's Lyric. (1994) **12.10** Late Programs.

7TWO (CH62)

6.00 Shopping. **6.30** Last Chance Learners. **7.00** Extreme Railways. **8.00** Million Dollar Minute. **9.00** Animal SOS Australia. **9.30** NBC Today. **10.30** Better Homes And Gardens Summer. **12.00** Better Homes. **1.00** I Escaped To The Country. **2.00** Weelender. **2.30** Cities Of The Underworld. **3.30** Last Chance Learners. **4.00** Animal Rescue. **4.30** Better Homes. **5.30** Escape To The Country. **6.30** Bargain Hunt. **7.30** Doc Martin. **8.30** Endeavour. **10.30** Fortitude. **11.30** Doc Martin. **12.30** Animal Rescue. **1.00** Endeavour. **3.00** Better Homes. **4.00** Late Programs.

7MATE (CH64)

6.00 NFL. NFL Playoffs. Wild Card Round. Buffalo Bills v Pittsburgh Steelers. Continued. **7.30** NFL. NFL Playoffs. Wild Card Round. Dallas Cowboys v Green Bay Packers. **11.00** NFL. NFL Playoffs. Wild Card Round. Detroit Lions v Los Angeles Rams. **2.30** Armchair Experts: NFL Edition. **3.30** Storage Wars: New York. **4.30** Storage Wars. **5.00** American Pickers. **6.00** Cricket. Big Bash League. Game 38. Melbourne Stars v Hobart Hurricanes. **7.35** Outback Opal Hunters. **8.30** Aussie Salvage Squad. **10.30** Ax Men. **12.30** Storage Wars. **1.00** American Restoration. **1.30** Late Programs.

7BRAVO (CH65)

6.00 Shark Tank. **7.00** Million Dollar Listing NY. **8.00** Dinner Date. **9.00** The Kelly Clarkson Show. **10.00** Shark Tank. **11.00** Million Dollar Listing NY. **12.00** Judge Jerry. **1.00** Escape To The Chateau: DIY. **2.00** Shark Tank. **3.00** Judge Jerry. **3.30** Jimmy Fallon. **4.30** Dinner Date. **5.30** Million Dollar Listing NY. **6.30** Shark Tank. **7.30** Botched By Nature. **8.30** Buried In The Backyard. **9.30** Accident, Suicide Or Murder. **10.30** Killer Couples. **11.30** Housewives Of Beverly Hills. **12.30** Botched By Nature. **1.30** Buried In The Backyard. **2.30** Accident, Suicide Or Murder. **3.30** Late Programs.

7FLIX (CH66)

6.00 It's Academic. **7.00** Zoo Moo. **8.00** News Of The Wild. **9.00** Shopping. **10.30** My Asian Banquet. **11.30** My France With Manu. **1.30** The Food Dude. **1.55** Intolerant Cooks. **2.20** A Moveable Feast. **2.45** My Kitchen Rules. **4.30** Bondi Vet.
6.30 Dr Harry's Animal Encounters.
7.30 Law & Order: Criminal Intent.
8.30 Law & Order: SVU. A boy's body is found in a playground.
10.30 Law & Order: LA. **12.30** The Blacklist. **1.30** Chicago P.D. **3.00** Criminal Minds. **4.00** S.W.A.T.

PREMIERE (CH 401)

6.00 Tár. (2022) (M) **7.35** What's Love Got To Do With It? (2022) (M) **9.30** The Machine. (2023) (MA15+) **11.25** Fast X. (2023) (M) **1.55** Pearl. (2022) (MA15+) **3.48** Assassin Club. (2023) (MA15+) **5.45** Evil Dead Rise. (2023) (MA15+) **7.30** Children Of The Corn. (2020) (MA15+) **9.10** Three Thousand Years Of Longing. (2022) (M) **11.02** All My Friends Hate Me. (2021) (MA15+) **12.40** She Said. (2022) (M) **2.52** Mona Lisa And The Blood Moon. (2022) (MA15+) **4.40** Late Programs. **5.55** Jane. (2022) (M)

GREATS (CH 410)

6.00 Stand By Me. (1986) **6.10** The Goonies. (1985) **8.10** Gremlins. (1984) **10.00** A League Of Their Own. (1992) **12.10** Major League. (1989) **2.00** Boiling Point. (1993) Wesley Snipes. **3.40** The Big Lebowski. (1998) Jeff Bridges. **5.40** Heart And Souls. (1993) Robert Downey Jr, Charles Grodin, Alfre Woodard.
7.30 The Notebook. (2004) Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling.
9.40 Cast A Deadly Spell. (1991) Fred Ward, Julianne Moore.
11.20 Saturday Night Fever. (1977) John Travolta.
1.35 Schindler's List. (1993)
4.25 Blade Runner. (1982) Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young.

UKTV (CH 105)

6.00 Morning Programs. **7.30** Mrs Brown's Boys. (M) **8.05** Jonathan Ross. (M) **9.05** Doc Martin. (M) **10.05** Would I Lie To You? (PG) **10.40** Who Do You Think You Are? (PG) **11.50** Midsomer Murders. (PG) **1.55** New Tricks. (M) **3.00** Father Brown. (M) **4.00** QI. (PG) **5.10** Richard Osman's House Of Games Night. (PG) **5.45** Emmerdale. (PG) **6.15** Coronation Street. (PG) **6.50** EastEnders. (PG) **7.30** DCI Banks. (MA15+) **8.30** New Tricks. (M) **9.30** 8 Out Of 10 Cats. (M) **11.25** Father Brown. (M) **12.15** Late Programs.

SHOWCASE (CH 112)

6.00 The Walking Dead. (MA15+) **9.00** Downton Abbey. (M) **10.00** Movie: Oslo. (2021) (M) **12.00** The Wire. (MA15+) **1.00** Big Little Lies. (M) **2.00** Downton Abbey. (M) **3.00** To Be Advised. **4.00** Entitled. (M) **5.00** The End. (MA15+) **5.30** Downton Abbey. (M) **7.30** True Detective: Night Country. New Series. **8.30** Bookie. (MA15+) **9.30** The Wire. (MA15+) **10.30** True Detective: Night Country. **11.30** Downton Abbey. (M) **12.30** The Newsroom. (M) **1.30** Six Feet Under. (MA15+) **2.30** Carnivàle. (MA15+) **3.30** Late Programs.

DISCOVERY (CH 133)

6.00 Morning Programs. **9.10** Moonshiners Special. (M) **10.05** Homestead Rescue. (PG) **11.55** Naked And Afraid. (M) **12.55** Aussie Gold Hunters. (PG) **1.50** End Of The Rope. (PG) **2.45** Deadliest Catch. (M) **3.40** Dirty Jobs. (PG) **4.35** Aussie Gold Hunters. (PG) **5.35** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail. (M) **6.30** Airplane Repo. (M) **7.30** Outback Opal Hunters. (PG) **8.30** Demolition Down Under. (PG) **9.25** Aussie Gold Hunters. (PG) **10.20** Naked And Afraid. (M) **11.15** Homestead Rescue. (M) **12.00** Late Programs.

FAMILY (CH 403)

6.00 Morning Programs. **6.25** Boonie Bears: Back To Earth. (2022) (PG) **8.05** Lyle, Lyle Crocodile. (2022) **8.10** Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2. (2013) **9.50** The Smurfs. (2011) **11.35** The Smurfs 2. (2013) **1.25** Smurfs: The Lost Village. (2017) **3.00** Flipper. (1996) (PG) **4.40** Puss In Boots: The Last Wish. (2022) (PG) **6.30** Lyle, Lyle Crocodile. (2022) **8.25** Paddington 2. (2017) **10.10** Pompo: The Cinéphile. (2021) (PG) **11.45** Paddington 2. (2017) **1.25** Late Programs.

ACTION (CH 405)

6.00 Mission: Impossible. (1996) (M) **6.55** Unleashed. (2005) (MA15+) **8.40** The Dark Tower. (2017) (M) **10.20** Godzilla. (1998) (PG) **12.40** Wonder Woman. (2017) (M) **3.05** Wonder Woman 1984. (2020) (M) **5.40** 2 Fast 2 Furious. (2003) (M) **7.30** Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines. (2003) (M)
9.25 Death Race. (2008) (MA15+)
11.10 S.W.A.T. (2003) (M) **1.05** Blade II. (2002) (MA15+) **3.00** Ned Kelly. (2003) (MA15+) **4.50** The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (2015) (M)

FOX8 (CH 108)

6.00 Taskmaster. (M) **8.00** Rick And Morty. (MA15+) **8.30** Entourage. (MA15+) **9.30** Two And A Half Men. (M) **11.00** To Be Advised. **12.00** Taskmaster. (M) **2.00** Two And A Half Men. (M) **3.30** Entourage. (MA15+) **4.30** Taskmaster. (M) **6.30** Taskmaster Champion Of Champions 3. New Series. **8.00** Krapopolis. (M) **9.00** Two And A Half Men. (M) **10.30** Entourage. (MA15+) **11.25** Krapopolis. (M) **12.15** Superstars (WWF) (M) **1.00** Wipeout. (PG) **1.50** Fear Factor. (PG) **2.35** Late Programs.

BBC FIRST (CH 119)

6.00 Silent Witness. (M) **7.05** Death In Paradise. (M) **8.05** Unforgotten. (MA15+) **9.00** Call The Midwife. (PG) **10.05** Chivalry. (MA15+) **10.30** Nolly. (M) **1.10** Marie Antoinette. (M) **2.15** Silent Witness. (M) **3.25** Death In Paradise. (M) **4.30** Unforgotten. (MA15+) **5.30** Call The Midwife. (PG) **7.40** Happy Valley. (MA15+) **8.45** The Catch. (M) **9.40** Marie Antoinette. (MA15+) **10.40** Death In Paradise. (M) **11.35** Unforgotten. (MA15+) **12.25** Silent Witness. (M) **1.25** Late Programs. **5.55** Silent Witness. (M)

LIFESTYLE (CH 106)

6.00 Morning Programs. **11.10** Selling Houses Aust. (PG) **12.15** Escape To The Country. **1.10** Antiques Roadshow. **2.20** Bargain Hunt. **3.15** Better Homes. **4.30** Chateau DIY. **5.30** 999: On The Front Line. (M) **6.30** Selling Houses Aust. (PG) **7.30** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (PG) **8.30** Sort Your Life Out. (PG) **9.40** Escape To The Country. **10.35** 24 Hours In Emergency. (PG) **11.35** Gogglebox Australia. (M) **12.25** Late Programs.

TOO|Monday1501

MONDAY BUSINESS

with ANTHONY KEANE

The 10 top stock picks for 2024

Health care, technology and fast cars feature prominently in some of Australia's top investment specialists' stock tips for 2024. Ten fund managers have shared their top picks in a year that is expected to be challenging for markets overall after a strong end to 2023.

All of the fund managers are generous too, working pro bono for listed investment companies Future Generation Australia and Future Generation Global, which combine investment and social returns.

The managers waive the usual fees so 1 per cent of assets are donated to charity – so far delivering about $76m to non-profit groups supporting youth at risk and youth mental health.

Here are their top tips, spanning Australian and international shares, and why they believe their chosen stocks are a good long-term buy.

CSL

Australia's largest health-related stock has rewarded investors richly for decades, and Blake Henricks from Firetrail Investments is positive about the company.

"CSL was a Covid loser as collection costs rose," said Mr Henricks, portfolio manager of the Firetrail Australian High Conviction Fund.

"But we have seen CSL's margin turn around as plasma collection volumes have improved and costs are dropping," he said.

"When we compare CSL to other defensive options it becomes even more attractive to us, as it is trading cheaper to peers and relative to its own long-term average, and consensus has earnings growth in the mid-teens."

MICROSOFT

US tech giant Microsoft is almost 50 years old and Magellan Asset Management's CFA portfolio manager Nikki Thomas said much had changed in that time at the company and in its markets.

"But what hasn't changed is its incumbency with enterprises and its ability to keep finding the future revenue growth opportunities and lead change," she said.

"The shift to the cloud has been fuelling growth for Microsoft Azure in particular, and we see this continuing for many more years at a compound double-digit rate of growth."

Ms Thomas said Microsoft's Office 365 had a highly recurring subscription revenue stream, and AI delivered an opportunity to unlock greater productivity.

"There are other opportunities for Microsoft too – from gaming to chips and it partners with other companies to expand opportunities," she said.

"Its balance sheet is robust and rich cash flow generation gives it firepower to invest strategically and support strong shareholder returns.

"We also hold CEO Satya Nadella, and his leadership team, in high regard.

"Despite its immense size, we continue to see strong growth at Microsoft for many, many years."

FERRARI

Want an investment that roars? Like Microsoft, Ferrari is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and its shares can be bought by anyone wanting a piece of the prancing horse.

Fund manager Martin Currie's head of global long term unconstrained equities, Zehrid Osmani, said the company had strong industry positioning in the high-end car market.

It typically had a 30-50 per cent price premium to peer sports car brands, Mr Osmani said.

"Long waiting lists for products makes the company able to weather short-term cyclical headwinds, and be able to continue to optimise its production capacity in downturns, making its sales more predictable over the long term," he said.

"The recent launch of an SUV has already ran into waiting lists of well over one year, and is helping the company address an important car market segment.

"Ferrari has more predictable sales than the market expects, and therefore can be seen as a consumer staples, albeit if only a staples of the high-net-worth individual."

RESMED

This Aussie company designs and makes CPAP systems that treat sleep apnoea, a debilitating illness affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

Lanyon Asset Management portfolio manager Nick Markiewicz said ResMed shares had been sold off significantly in recent months amid fears around the potential impact of new obesity drugs on demand for CPAP systems.

"While it is possible these drugs will have a marginal impact on ResMed over time, we think this threat is small, and more than reflected in the share price," Mr Markiewicz said.

"We think an opportunity to own ResMed exists partly on account of the company's dual-listing, with the majority of shares traded in the US, where ResMed is potentially less familiar to investors and the quality of the business is under appreciated," he said.

"ResMed has a dominant position in an under-penetrated market with a long runway for growth for many years to come. We think the recent sell-off has provided a rare opportunity to buy a stake in one of the best businesses in Australia at its cheapest valuation level in seven years."

WISETECH GLOBAL

This company combines two hot sectors – technology and logistics – and Sage Capital portfolio manager Kelli Meagher said its recent heavy falls reflected market attention on weaker freight volumes.

"We believe this is a short-term cyclical headwind which creates a great opportunity to invest in a company with a near monopoly in seaborne logistics among top global freight forwarders," Ms Meagher said.

"It's no coincidence the most profitable freight forwarders all use Wisetech's Cargowise software," she said.

WiseTech's competitive advantage in global logistics should enable it to deliver good growth for many years, Ms Meagher said.

"Over more than a decade Wisetech has invested to bring online almost all major markets in single software solution, giving its scale local competitors cannot match," she said.

"A new area where this really shines is in customs, a market potentially bigger than core freight forwarding.

"Wisetech is years ahead of the competition here."

JOHNS LYNG

QVG Capital portfolio manager Chris Prunty said he loved the management and corporate culture of this company.

"Johns Lyng is an insurance builder, disaster recovery expert and strata manager," he said.

"These are not exactly sexy industries, but they do benefit from being fragmented, non-cyclical and cash generative.

"The founder Scott Dider owns almost 18 per cent of the company and three other directors are also top 20 shareholders."

Mr Prunty said the "secret sauce" behind Johns Lyng was its ability to identify highly motivated, high-energy managers and give them a high degree of autonomy.

"We think the relatively low

We live in the shadow of super's valley of death ...

Anthony Keane

Superannuation is Australians' best way to save money for retirement and save tax at the same time, but it contains traps that can kill part of your finances.

Take, for example, what could be described as super's valley of death. It spans about $400,000 and is the danger zone where having your super balance hit a certain level becomes financially pointless.

The valley opens at about $800,000 for a couple, as it reduces age pension payments more than the extra money's investment returns are likely to deliver.

Financial strategist Theo Marinis calls it "super's dirty little secret".

"The sad reality is there is very little benefit in retiring with a balance between $800,000 and $1.2m," he says.

Many people may think they will never have a nest egg that big, but we are talking about couples when looking at these numbers, and as compulsory superannuation heads towards 12 per cent of wages it will become more common to see $400,000 balances.

Centrelink's age pension assets test starts reducing payments when a homeowner couple has $451,500 of assets, excluding their family home.

That same couple can have assets totalling $1.03m before age pension payments – and associated concessions – cut out completely.

Marinis says a couple with $1.5m will not significantly benefit from the pension system until their money runs down to about $800,000. A combined nest egg above $2m means they are unlikely to ever require a pension.

Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia figures in mid-2021 showed average super balances for 60 to 64-year-olds were $403,000 for men and $318,000 for women.

A majority of people retire receiving age pension payments, often a part pension these days thanks to compulsory super existing since the early 1990s.

Despite the wackiness of the pension and super rules making things tricky for people with just over $800,000, there are plenty of strategies that can help savers and seniors navigate the system successfully.

Strategy No.1 is to build a bigger balance if you have enough years ahead of retirement. Salary sacrifice and other tax-deductible contributions, after-tax contributions, co-contributions, spouse contributions and downsizer contributions are among the incentives to help people build big nest eggs faster.

People can also turn some of their nest eggs into exempt money by injecting money into their own homes via renovations or buying a more expensive property, but there are hefty buying and selling costs so everything needs to be weighed up.

A legitimate strategy could be to feed your travel bug early in retirement, as money spent on those memorable life experiences will no longer be assessed by Centrelink.

Also, where one member of an older couple is significantly younger than the other and below the pension age of 67, extra money can be put into the younger partner's super fund where it won't be counted by Centrelink until they reach 67.

The complexity of our system means good financial planners are worth their weight in gold, as they can often save people tens of thousands of dollars simply by recommending tax-effective superannuation strategies.

Super's valley of death lurks on the horizon for many, but the way that Australians approach and navigate it can result in only a small amount of money being killed off by crazy super, tax and pension rules.

Scott Pape returns this month

“Long waiting lists for products makes (Ferrari) able to weather short-term cyclical headwinds

competitive intensity of Johns Lyng's businesses combined with a unique corporate culture makes it a very attractive long-term holding," he said.

SIGMA PHARMACEUTICALS

Wilson Asset Management lead portfolio manager Oscar Oberg said the pharmaceutical wholesaler and retailer recently raised $400m to merge with retailer Chemist Warehouse.

"Once the merger is approved, the combined business will transform Sigma from an $800m small cap company to a $9bn large cap company with an exciting domestic and offshore growth profile ahead of it," Mr Oberg said.

"Chemist Warehouse has over 600 franchised pharmacies across Australia and over the last 50 years has transformed the pharmacy sector by focusing on value," he said.

"We see the potential for Chemist Warehouse to accelerate its offshore store rollout in New Zealand, Ireland and China where the company has only 54 stores.

"Historically in the Australian market we have seen companies like Dominos and Lovisa trade at a higher valuation as they embark on an aggressive store roll out strategy."

BAIDU

China's dominant search engine has 663 million monthly active users.

Antipodes Partners portfolio manager John Stavliotis said the deployment of a conversational AI bot across its platform had increased traffic and attracted more advertisers.

"Baidu's longstanding AI investments also enhance its leadership in the cloud market which will accelerate its revenue growth outside of core search," Mr Stavliotis said.

"Baidu has addressed semiconductor export restrictions into China via inventory management and sourcing locally designed and manufactured alternatives," he said.

"The Chinese macro environment has presented investors with an attractive PE multiple of 12x for a business with strong competitive positioning in its home market and with durable growth opportunities."

COG FINANCIAL SERVICES

This company owns the largest SME finance broker network in Australia, with a 21 per cent market share of net assets financed.

Cashed Up

Want weekly step-by-step challenges to improve your finances? Sign up to news.com.au's Cashed Up money challenge today

"These brokers help secure financing for small and medium size businesses across Australia," said Sandon Capital founder and chief investment officer Gabriel Radzyminski.

"COG also owns businesses that provide novated leasing and is building its commercial insurance brokerage network," he said.

Mr Radzyminski said the company offered strong growth prospects over many years, and had an attractive dividend yield near 6 per cent.

"COG grows both organically and by making acquisitions," he said.

"We also believe the sector could grow significantly if major banks decide to direct a greater share of their SME financing through broker channels.

"Industry estimates suggest about a third of SME finance is brokered, with the balance directly from the banks."

CRH

The largest building products business in North America has a market capitalisation of around $US45bn ($67bn), said L1 Capital senior investment analyst Amar Naik.

"Despite its size, it has flown under the radar for US investors as it has been European listed until late September 2023 when its primary listing was changed to the NYSE," he said.

"We think this change will step-change its investment profile with key US investors."

Mr Naik said CRH had outlined a pathway to double-digit earnings growth over the medium term, but it traded at a huge discount to its US peers.

"CRH is a significant beneficiary of the unprecedented growth in US infrastructure spending, which will underpin many years of robust demand," he said.

SHARE *tips*

Toby Grimm
Baker Young

BUY

Macquarie Group (MQG)
Amid improved market performance and easing financial conditions, the 2024 outlook for asset transactions and earnings looks more encouraging.

Johns Lyng Group (JLG)
The property insurance repair company's order book should be supported by heavy east coast rains during summer while the core business continues to expand.

HOLD

Westpac (WBC)
After several years of underperformance relative to peers, we believe Westpac is beginning to restore some confidence among investors.

Amcor (AMC)
Operating cost inflation and customer destocking issues hurt the packaging firm's performance recently, there are reasons to be more optimistic going forward.

SELL

IDP Education (IEL)
The English testing firm looks set to struggle to maintain revenue and margins in the near term amid increasing competition, adverse immigration and student visa policy changes in key markets.

Sandfire Resources (SFR)
The miner's share price has rallied to near five-year highs despite continued weakness in the copper price and we would seek more attractive value elsewhere.

Tony Paterno
Ord Minnett

BUY

WiseTech Global (WTC)
Given the market for logistics services naturally selects the lowest-cost provider, we see WiseTech's main product, CargoWise, outperforming other freight forwarders.

Telstra Group (TLS)
Shares in Telstra are trading at an attractive discount to our fair value estimate. We forecast earnings margins to be driven by benefits of the current cost-out program.

HOLD

Metcash (MTS)
A consumer grappling with rising cost-of-living pressures, increases in operating expenses, and intensifying competition all make for a challenging environment.

Treasury Wine Estates (TWE)
We expect volume gains to remain tough to come by in Australian wine and in the US.

SELL

Xero (XRO)
Xero will struggle to grow subscribers and revenue as a larger share of its budget is being consumed by replenishing customers.

Polynovo (PNV)
Polynovo shares appear expensive despite a maiden profit in sight. Financial success in medical devices is also dependent on distribution networks that competitors may utilise more effectively.

Can I put cash from house sale into super?

Money Man
Brenton Miegel

Q: I am 52 and have a super balance of $1.1m. I am selling a property and expect to have around $500,000 cash after paying off a mortgage. I expect to contribute around $20,000 per year from my salary for the next few years. How much of the $500,000 cash can I add to my super balance?

A: The super annual concessional contribution cap is $27,500, from employer contributions or personal deductible contributions.

The non-concessional contribution cap is $110,000 per annum, or $330,000 using the bring-forward provision. (If you use the bring-forward provision, you cannot make any further non-concessional contributions for the next two financial years.)

To maximise your super contributions from the sale of the property, you could make a $110,000 non-concessional contribution in 2023-24, a $110,000 non-concessional contribution in 2024-25, and the balance in the 2025-26 financial year.

This assumes the value of your superannuation portfolio remains under the Total Super Balance (TSB) Cap, which is currently $1.68m. Your $20,000 per year contributions from your salary (assuming salary sacrifice) would be concessional contributions.

Q: I have a question regarding Transitioning to Retirement (TTR) for the self-employed. I am currently a self-employed sole trader with a SMSF. I have two commercial properties as part of my portfolio, one of which I lease to generate income.

I am considering transitioning into retirement in the near future. Am I still able to continue leasing the property as a sole trader via my SMSF, given that I will be in TTR mode?

A: The transition to retirement (TTR) strategy generally involves moving your superannuation from accumulation phase to pension phase. This can be done whether you are in a SMSF, or a retail or industry super fund.

Generating income from one of your commercial properties in your SMSF would be appropriate as you are needing to make at least an annual income payment from the fund to yourself.

The income payment would be tax-free. However, the earnings within the super fund (in pension phase as part of a TTR strategy) would be taxed as if it was in accumulation.

Assuming you would be doing this after you are 60, you must take a minimum 4 per cent income and a maximum 10 per cent income from the portfolio. I recommend you seek the advice of a professional financial planner as part of the research you do into the TTR strategy and ensure that your SMSF administrator is well-versed in the machinations involved.

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO SUNDAYMONEYMAN@NEWS.COM.AU

Brenton is a director and an authorised representative of Goldsborough Financial Services Limited. His advice should be considered as an opinion. Readers should consider engaging their own personal financial adviser. Questions and answers may have been edited for length.

STARS

OSCAR CAINER
For free forecasts go to ozfree.cainer.com

With Mercury (ideas) now moving through Capricorn, it's an opportunity to find solutions to recently identified problems. And in our media driven world, it's worth remembering that the best answers aren't always found by an online search. As the tech industry showcases its latest developments at the start of the CES trade show, expect to see innovative advances in the world of AI and automatons. But nothing beats human heart-to-heart communication. And that's what the cosmos encourages today.

ARIES MAR 21–APR 20
No matter which direction you turn, or how much you achieve, you're facing more and more demands on your time. It's hard to keep track of the promises and commitments you need to honour (let alone find the energy to invest in looking after your own life and relationships). How are you meant to know what to prioritise when you've got wrongs to right and people's needs to look after? Today brings a chance to simplify things. Something can be dropped from your to-do list.

LEO JUL 24–AUG 23
When we're caught up in a confusing situation it's hard to envisage the ideal way to resolve it. But are you so embroiled in a need to avoid a particular issue (or relationship) that you'll settle for anything that seems better than it is right now? Yes, there are times when we have to shrug our shoulders, and deal with whatever life brings our way. But the current cosmic climate is offering you options. Don't lose sight of your standards today. Despite the uncertainty you're experiencing, you're close to attaining a goal.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23–DEC 21
It doesn't matter how convincingly someone explains something, we only hear what we want to hear and believe what we want to believe. And even if something is staring us in the face, we only see what we want to see. And since we tend to be much better at talking than listening, it's no wonder there's so much misunderstanding and miscommunication. Which means we learn to expect disharmony, even when we share common ground. Don't distrust the opportunity coming your way.

TAURUS APR 21–MAY 21
Although a positive attitude can get you a long way, even the most optimistic person in the world is going to find some things impossible. With the best will in the world, in some situations, certain goals are simply unattainable. I'm not mentioning this to dishearten you. Quite the opposite. It's just that past disappointments might tempt you to underestimate the possibility now being presented to you. You really can be confident today.

VIRGO AUG 24–SEP 23
Everything about life seems circular. The Moon circles around our planet. Our planet circles around the Sun. And the Sun rotates around its axis. And our minds seem to follow this same pattern. The cogs keep turning, and activating more cogs, which keep spinning. Your mind has been in a whirl recently. With so much going on, it's no wonder you're feeling a bit dizzy. Today, with your ruler, Mercury, settling into Capricorn, something starts making sense. You'll find once that happens, you'll regain a sense of balance.

CAPRICORN DEC 22–JAN 20
If we scratch beneath any surface, we find something waiting to be uncovered. Even a simple, random remark can be hiding emotions. If you're going to make the decision you need to make right now, there are certain issues to be taken into consideration. Otherwise, you might let your expectations inform your judgement and jump to the wrong conclusion. With Mercury (intellect) in your sign, you can carefully weigh up all the factors and come to a decision that has a powerfully positive effect on your future.

GEMINI MAY 22–JUN 22
We're going to test your mindreading skills. If you take a moment to close your eyes and relax, can you tell what the rest of your prediction is going to say? Of course you can't! There's no way you can know unless you read it! In fact, your forecast is going to tell you that you need to open your eyes and take a good look at an issue you'd prefer to ignore. Your ruler, Mercury, in earthy Capricorn, brings the courage and the clarity to see the path you need to follow to bring success your way.

LIBRA SEP 24–OCT 23
Although you can see a logical way to get to where you want to go, it doesn't look very enticing. Either it's going to be more expensive than you can afford. Or it involves crossing a particularly challenging terrain. You're hesitating, in the hope of discovering an alternative route. Yet, in your heart of hearts, you know it's going to be impossible to find one. So, your best option is to seek assistance. There are people around who can help smooth the way ahead. Explaining your needs takes courage.

AQUARIUS JAN 21–FEB 19
Think back to when you were at school. Every new term brought harder lessons to learn. Even though those days might be long over, we're all still students at the school of life; and a new year brings a different set of challenges. It doesn't seem to get any easier. As soon as we've got to grips with something, something else pops up. And if we don't learn the lesson, it re-presents itself, in a different format, until we do. With Mercury in a new sector of the sky, you've got the ability to look at an old problem and deal with it.

CANCER JUN 23–JUL 23
I was recently watching a documentary about parrots. Their ability to imitate made me think about how humans share that skill. We copy words, people and ideas. Sometimes, when we try out different ways of being, or different viewpoints, we sound as if we don't know what's going on. Then, we learn from other folk's reactions, and adapt. Mimicry is part of our developmental process. Yet there are times when we appear to be communicating, but the words and actions are devoid of real meaning.

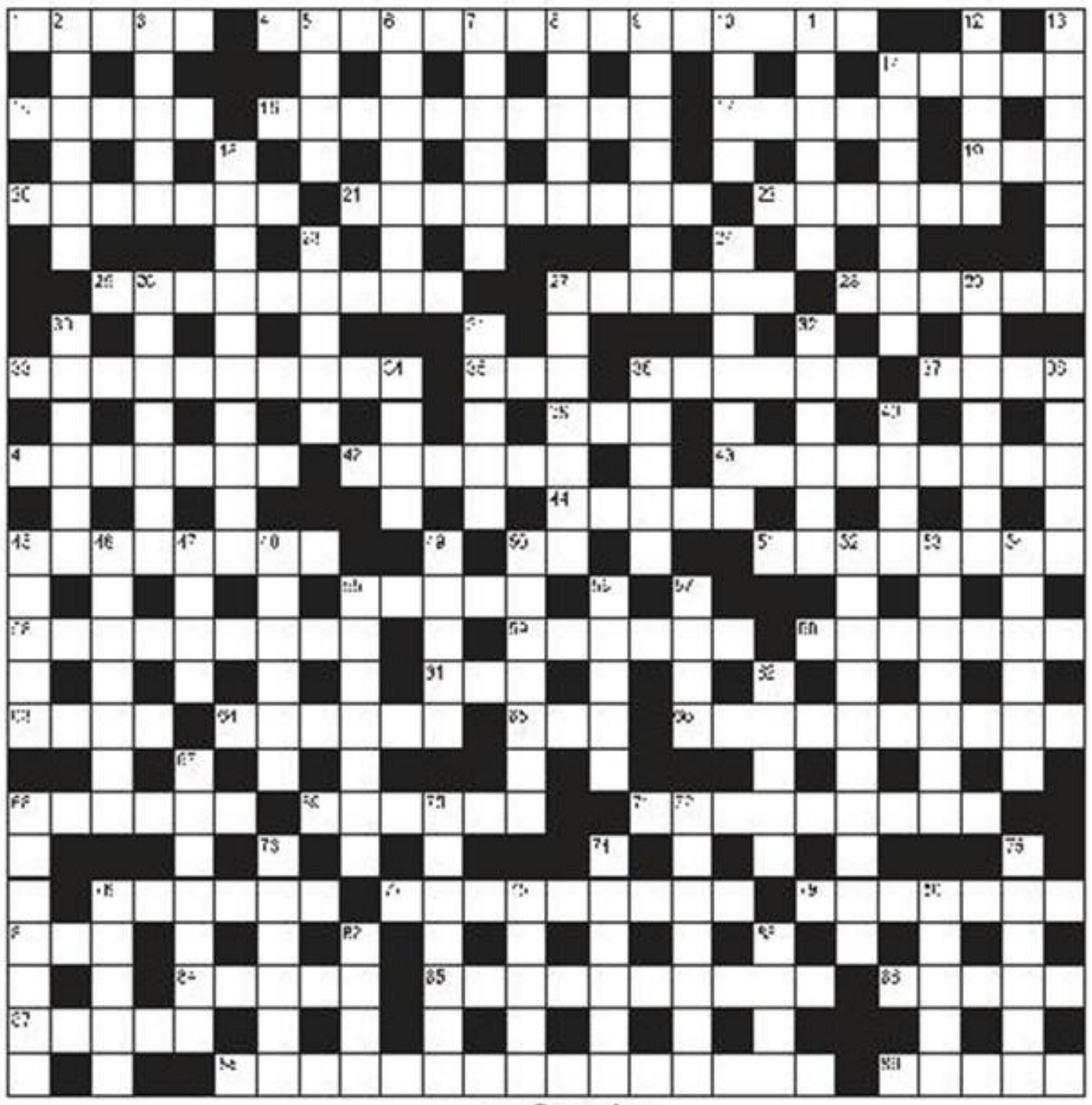
SCORPIO OCT 24–NOV 22
Imagine how you'd respond if everything started falling apart? Or how you'd manage if life only presented you with challenges, awkward people and impossible scenarios? If you want to picture a never-ending litany of worst-case scenarios, no-one's going to stop you. But I'm hoping you see how preposterous that notion is. Life on planet Earth might be crazy and unpredictable. But don't let your imagination take you down that unhelpful path. Instead, focus on how you can cope with an improvement.

PISCES FEB 20–MAR 20
As a chess-lover, I'm delighted by the resurgence in its popularity. With all the apps and online games, it's become accessible to anyone who likes pushing their strategic thinking to new levels. Yet satisfying though this kind of gameplay can be, it's only useful in certain scenarios. You're dealing with a situation that suits your emotional intelligence. And with Mercury (intellect) now in earthy Capricorn, your sensitivity, kindness and generosity are more effective than ever.

JUMBO CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Humid (5)
4 Scarce (4,2,3,6)
14 Bumpy (5)
15 Wish-granter (5)
16 Luminosity (10)
17 Become one (5)
19 Mongrel (3)
20 Protracted (7)
21 Nerve-racking (9)
22 Fireplace (6)
25 Offender (9)
27 Unvarying (6)
28 Supporting structure on rocket launch pad (6)
33 Lies (10)
35 Garden tool (3)
36 Lyrical (6)
37 Exude (4)
39 Automobile (3)
41 Enthusiasm-arousing address (3-4)
42 Acid neutraliser (6)
43 Road speed (anag) (9)
44 A region's plant life (5)
45 Cut (8)
50 Next to (2)
51 Shirt, tie (anag) (8)
55 Deep ravine (5)
58 Refuge (9)
59 Wits (6)
60 Plots (7)
61 Indicate assent (3)
63 Decisive defeat (4)
64 Wine serving bottle (6)
65 Public house (3)
66 Capital of Denmark (10)
68 Slows the progress of (6)
69 Dating regularly (6)
71 Irritable, hot-tempered (9)
76 Writer (6)
77 Predators (anag) (9)
79 Extremely old (7)
81 Rascal (3)
84 More pleasant (5)
85 Used to (10)
86 Thrill (5)
87 Mimicking (5)
88 Escape completely unpunished (3,4,4-4)
89 Actions (5)

DOWN
2 Patchy (6)
3 Exiting (5)
5 Toss (4)
6 Sleeping garment (7)
7 Spice (6)
8 Takes notice of (5)
9 Make hand signs (7)
10 Musical work (4)
11 Sounds (6)
12 Cluster (5)
13 Curative treatment (7)
14 Strategic withdrawal (7)
18 Rodent bred for fur (10)
23 Nincompoop (6)
24 Supplementary material at the end of a book (7)
26 Supporter's ribboned badge (7)
27 Define clearly (7)
29 Kettledrums (7)
30 Film holder (6)
31 Small medicine bottle (5)
32 Tawdry art (6)
34 Glossy fabric (4)
36 Evidence (5)
38 Utensils (5)
40 Prophet (4)
45 Intense beam generator (5)
46 Use up (7)
47 Assess (4)
48 Drink sachet (3,3)
49 Lying face downwards (5)
50 Sleeping material (7)
52 Firebomb (10)
53 Growth on foot (7)
54 Lace hole (6)
55 Went in a circle (7)
56 Signs up (5)
57 Heroic verse (4)
62 Sudden cramp (5)
67 Gliding on ice (7)
68 Sneering, derisive (7)
70 Art of Japanese flower arrangement (7)
72 Expression of criticism and censure (7)
73 Fencer's shout (6)
74 Painting done on wet plaster (6)
75 Aslant (6)
76 Month (5)
78 Sways (5)
80 Bisect (5)
82 Opera solo (4)
83 Festival (4)



WORDFILL Fit the words into the grid to create a finished crossword

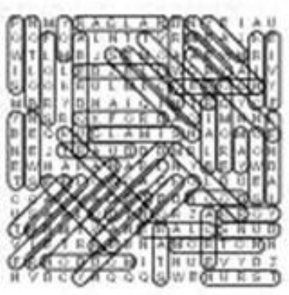
3 LETTERS
ART
AVE
CUR
DEN
EGO
ERA
EVE
FOR
GEN
KEY
NOB
OAR
ODE
PAR
PEG
WAG
YAP
YES

4 LETTERS
ABET
ABUT
AVER
AWAY
BOSS
CARE
DATE
ELSE
FETE
FRET
FURY
GREY
ICED
IDEA
IDOL
LAGS
LENS
MIME
MONK
NUTS
OGLE
OKAY
ONLY
OWES
OWLS
PAPA
PERU
PURE
ROOF
STUD
TAPS
TSAR
UNDO
WEST

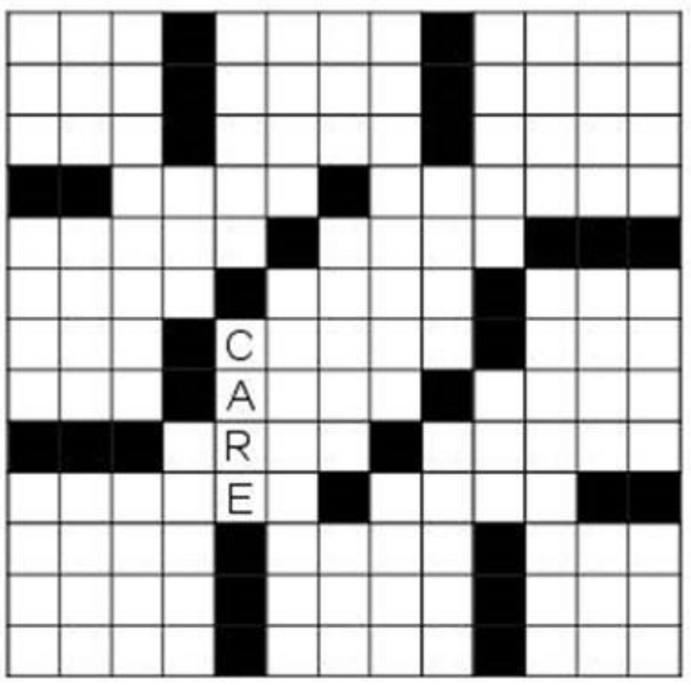
5 LETTERS
CANOE
FLAKE
POLAR
RULER
SALES
SUDSY
TAPIR
TENET

6 LETTERS
EDITED
MILLER

8 LETTERS
ASSESSOR
NEWLYWED
STROLLER
WAVERING



Saturday's WordFind

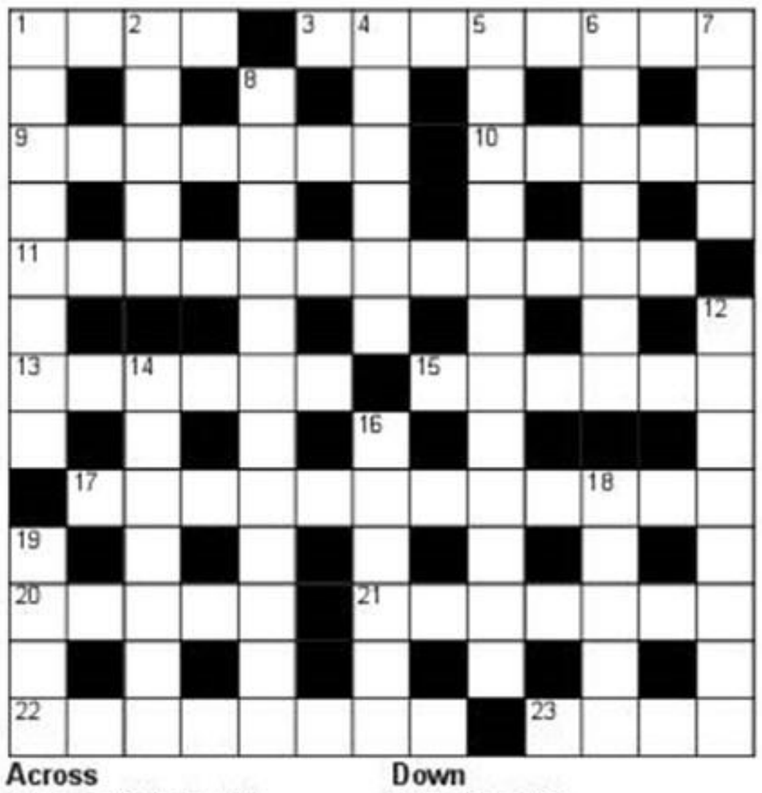


Saturday

ACROSS: 1. Indigo, 4. Residence, 9. Mass, 11. Pea, 12. Ago, 13. Past, 15. Brunt, 16. Sac, 17. Oath, 19. Pour, 21. Hard, 23. Vie, 24. Tariff, 26. Edge, 27. Hod, 28. Far, 30. Some, 31. Reign, 32. Vinyl, 34. Vying, 35. Shed, 36. Were, 38. Idle, 39. Undo, 40. Hassle, 44. Nun, 45. Keenly, 46. Lots, 48. Tote, 50. Sparse, 51. Mac, 53. Retort, 57. Gala, 58. Aura, 59. Fact, 61. Thru, 63. Carat, 65. Gooey, 67. Amble, 68. Epic, 69. For, 70. Axe, 71. Lour, 72. Bronco, 75. Rot, 76. Reel, 79. Iris, 81. Onyx, 82. Ova, 83. Muted, 84. Stab, 85. Its, 86. Lei, 87. Gift, 88. Swordplay, 89. Cheque.

DOWN: 1. Impoverish, 2. Into, 3. Opera, 4. Rabbi, 5. Squiffy, 6. Dither, 7. Nosegay, 8. Each, 9. Moor, 10. Schedule, 14. Specious, 18. Adhere, 20. Utensil, 22. Agog, 25. Rave, 29. Alien, 30. Snooker, 33. Idiot, 34. Vaunt, 36. Wrest, 37. Ruler, 41. Alpha, 42. Strut, 43. Elegiac, 47. Smart, 49. Orate, 52. Cargo, 54. Equator, 55. Outburst, 56. Times table, 59. For a song, 60. Cheery, 62. Hymn, 63. Cite, 64. Avocado, 66. Orbital, 69. Framed, 73. Oddly, 74. Civic, 77. Exit, 78. Loss, 80. Isle.

13x13 QUICK



Across
1. Type of window (4)
3. Tenses up (8)
9. Carry out (3,4)
10. Repeatedly (5)
11. Secret (12)
13. Unsophisticated (6)
15. Golf club (6)
17. Polite (4-8)
20. Dagger (5)
21. Relating to the heart (7)
22. Cancelling out (8)
23. Pleads (4)

Down
1. Grabbed (8)
2. Smooth, glossy fabric (5)
4. Cared for (6)
5. Leading contenders (5-7)
6. Pull out (7)
7. Founder (4)
8. Most lively (12)
12. Foretells (8)
14. Staggering (7)
16. Bird of prey (6)
18. Elevate (5)
19. Pelt, hide (4)

Saturday
Across: 1. Loquacious 7. Image 8. Collude 10. Sweating 11. Clad 13. Captor 15. Rely on 17. Able 18. Readable 21. Stature 22. Trite 23. Decelerate.
Down: 1. Leave 2. Question 3. Ascend 4. Idle 5. Usually 6. First-class 9. Endangered 12. Vendetta 14. Pulsate 16. Recede 19. Bribe 20. Nude.

5x5

	I		T	
U		L		T
	L		N	
T		P		E
	T		A	

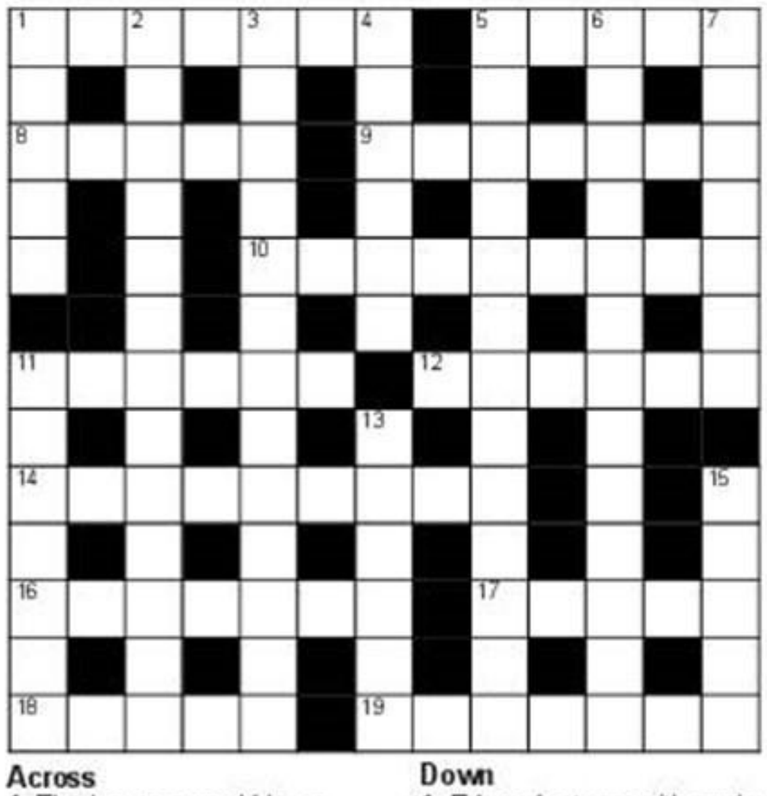
Insert the missing letters to make five words reading across and five reading down.

Note: more than one solution may be possible

Saturday

P	A	S	T	E
A	L	P	H	A
R	O	L	E	S
C	H	I	M	E
H	A	T	E	S

CRYPTIC



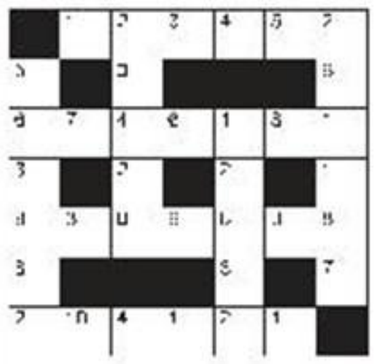
Across
1. The bouncer could be a donor, ma ... (7)
5. ... and an addict from Colorado, perhaps (5)
8. Chivalrous, Carlo departed the Hindu Festival (5)
9. Cleaned scorchingly quick? (7)
10. It is over the top when it comes to cricket and devastating (3,3,3)
11. A nagging way to mine for coal (4,2)
12. Returning with a cigarette iron, Bob made social blunders (6)
14. The printer ink replacer was a fly-by-nighter and party goer (3,6)
16. Sounds like the goats' coats were to be cut down (7)
17. The weird serve curves away (5)
18. Be nonchalant about a quiet time on the mat (5)
19. Ah, kilts, perhaps and something to top it off (4,3)

Down
1. Edward returns with sunburn culprit in spite of having cover (5)
2. Corey chatters about some bird (13)
3. Hot water in mug could be delicious (13)
4. Delicacy of character needed for pleasant town, we hear (6)
5. Got there but was late (4,2,7)
6. Could be several pages or just bits of the sentence (5,2,6)
7. Dancer gets 10 from France from two quarters which are base numbers (7)
11. Something to wear on retirement (7)
13. At a standstill, but you can remain little sibling so to speak (6)
15. Doesn't own pheasants without apes (5)

Saturday
Across: 2. Illustrator, 7. Water pistol, 9. Servile, 10. Repot, 11. George, 12. Ashore, 15. Diary, 17. Refresh, 19. In cold blood, 20. Fundamental.
Down: 1. Kiwis, 2. Interrogation, 3. Lurking, 4. Shires, 5. Rater, 6. Telephone poll, 8. Titre, 11. Giddy, 13. Safe bet, 14. Grille, 16. Yucca, 18. Hides.

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

15/1



Numbers have been substituted for letters. Use the letter(s) given to work out the rest of the puzzle.

2 = T

Saturday

WordWheel

Insert the missing letter to make an eight-letter word reading either clockwise or anticlockwise.

Saturday: TOMAHAWK

Vocabularian

Choose the correct definition

Benison
a) Blessing
b) Shared thoughts
c) Monks' prayer service

Cateran
a) Mountain stream
b) Steamship engineer
c) Brigand

Saturday
Coif: head covering
Amplitude: vastness

TARGET

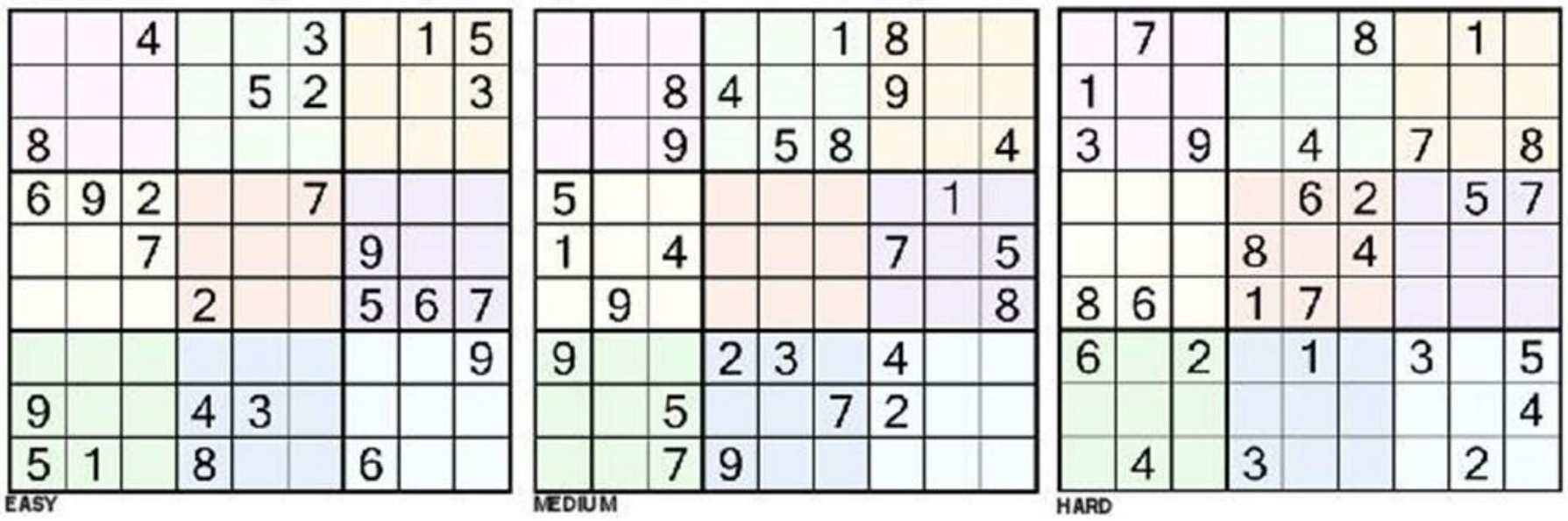
H	E	R
I	K	A
G	N	N

How many words of four letters or more can you make? Each letter must be used only once and all words must contain the centre letter. There is at least one nine-letter word.
No words starting with a capital are allowed, no plurals ending in s unless the word is also a verb, e.g. he burns with anger.
Good 10 Very Good 16 Excellent 24+

Saturday: adust anus aunt daunt daunts duet dune duns dust endue endues ensue ensued nausea nauseate NAUSEATED nude sauna saute sauteed stud stun sued suede suet sundae tuna tune tuned tunes unease unsated unseat unseated unset used

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and each 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.



EASY MEDIUM HARD

Saturday's sudoku solutions

9	6	7	4	3	5	8	1	2
3	5	2	6	8	1	4	9	7
1	4	8	7	9	2	6	5	3
8	9	5	3	6	4	2	7	1
6	7	3	2	1	9	5	4	8
2	1	4	8	5	7	3	6	9
7	2	9	5	4	8	1	3	6
5	8	6	1	7	3	9	2	4
4	3	1	9	2	6	7	8	5

EASY

9	1	4	6	2	5	3	8	7
3	6	2	7	8	9	5	1	4
8	5	7	4	1	3	9	2	6
1	4	5	8	9	6	2	7	3
2	9	6	3	4	7	1	5	8
7	3	8	1	5	2	6	4	9
6	8	3	2	7	1	4	9	5
5	7	1	9	6	4	8	3	2
4	2	9	5	3	8	7	6	1

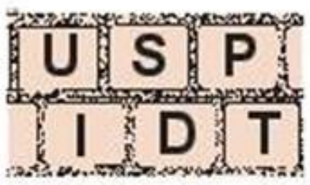
MEDIUM

6	3	4	8	5	7	1	9	2
9	5	8	2	6	1	4	7	3
2	1	7	9	4	3	5	8	6
4	9	3	6	7	5	8	2	1
8	6	5	3	1	2	9	4	7
7	2	1	4	9	8	3	6	5
5	4	2	7	3	9	6	1	8
1	8	6	5	2	4	7	3	9
3	7	9	1	8	6	2	5	4

HARD

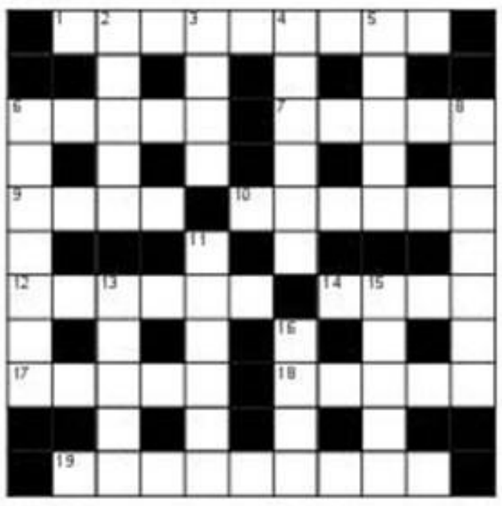
Saturday's WordBuilder solution
Fir, fit, fop, for, fort, frit, fro, oft, opt, pit, poi, port, pot, pro, prof, PROFIT, rift, riot, rip, rot, tip, tiro, top, topi, tor, tori, trio, trip.

WORDBUILDER



How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the six letters, using each only once?
No words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one six-letter word.
Good 15 Very Good 19 Excellent 23

11x11 QUICK



Across
1. Abundant wealth (9)
6. Holding device (5)
7. Toss (5)
9. Overdue (4)
10. A litre (anag) (6)
12. Antiseptic tincture (6)
14. Throbbing pain (4)
17. African country (5)
18. Agent, representative (5)
19. Dry out (9)

Down
2. Banquet (5)
3. Track circuits (4)
4. Paris tower (6)
5. Porcelain (5)
6. Telephoning (7)
8. Golf tournament spectators (7)
11. Anxious (6)
13. Male duck (5)
15. Flat-headed nail (5)
16. Nautical pole (4)

Saturday's 11x11 quick
Across: 1. Fool's errand, 7. Chink, 8. Scrub, 9. Seep, 11. Bereft, 14. Master, 16. Bars, 20. Nerve, 21. Aroma, 22. Contentment.
Down: 1. Focus, 2. Olive, 3. Sake, 4. Russet, 5. Agree, 6. Debut, 10. Era, 12. Far, 13. Secede, 14. Manic, 15. Siren, 17. Alone, 18. Start, 19. Fact.

FORECAST

Statewide today

Scattered to widespread showers, isolated storms, and periods of rain in the far north and northwest. Possible severe storms with heavy rainfall in the far north and northwest. Isolated to scattered showers and the chance of a storm in eastern districts south of Ingham and in the southwest. Partly cloudy elsewhere. Maximum temperatures below average north of Richmond, near average elsewhere.

28 / 18

TOOWOOMBA
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers, most likely from the late morning. Winds east to southeasterly 25 to 40 km/h.

33 / 19

OAKEY
Possible shower.

34 / 19

DALBY
Becoming windy. Partly cloudy.

31 / 20

GATTON
Shower or two.

31 / 20

LAIDLEY
Shower or two.

29 / 18

WARWICK
Possible shower.

Toowoomba Outlook:

Tuesday.	Shower or two. 19 / 27
Wednesday.	Shower or two. 19 / 29
Thursday.	Shower or two. 20 / 27
Friday.	Shower or two. 18 / 27
Saturday.	Possible shower. 17 / 28

Darling Downs and Granite Belt

Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers over the Granite Belt, slight chance elsewhere. The chance of a storm in the north from the late morning. Winds easterly 25 to 40 km/h.

Tuesday
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers over the Granite Belt, slight chance elsewhere. The chance of a storm. Winds easterly 25 to 35 km/h.

Wednesday
Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers, most likely in the afternoon and evening. The chance of a storm in the afternoon and evening. Winds east to northeasterly 15 to 25 km/h tending northwest to northeasterly 15 to 20 km/h during the morning then becoming northeasterly 15 to 25 km/h during the evening.

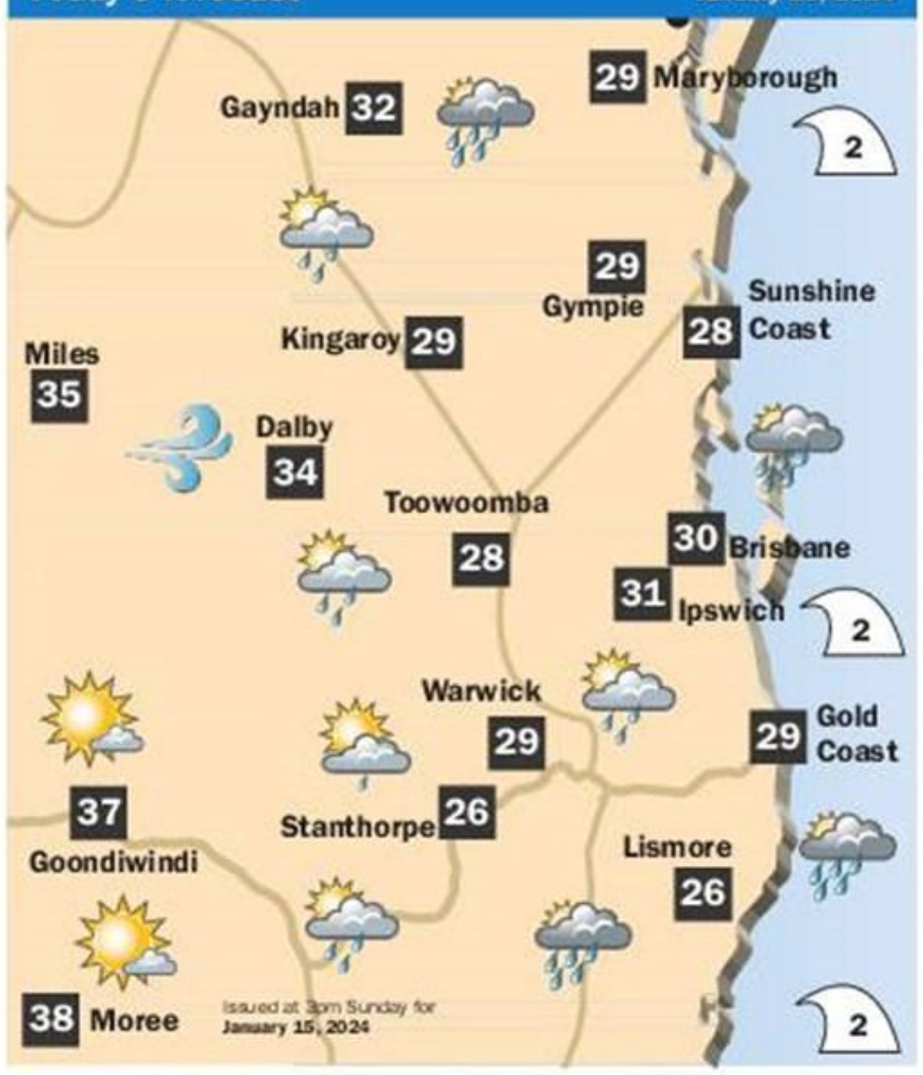
Statewide tomorrow

Scattered to widespread showers, isolated storms, and periods of rain in the far north and northwest. Possible severe storms with heavy rainfall in the far north and northwest. Isolated to scattered showers and the chance of a storm in eastern districts south of Ingham and in the southwest. Partly cloudy elsewhere. Maximum temperatures near average.

Wednesday
Scattered to widespread showers, isolated storms, and periods of rain in the far north and northwest. Possible severe storms with heavy rainfall in the far north and northwest. Isolated to scattered showers and storms elsewhere. Possible severe storms in the southern interior. Maximum temperatures near average.

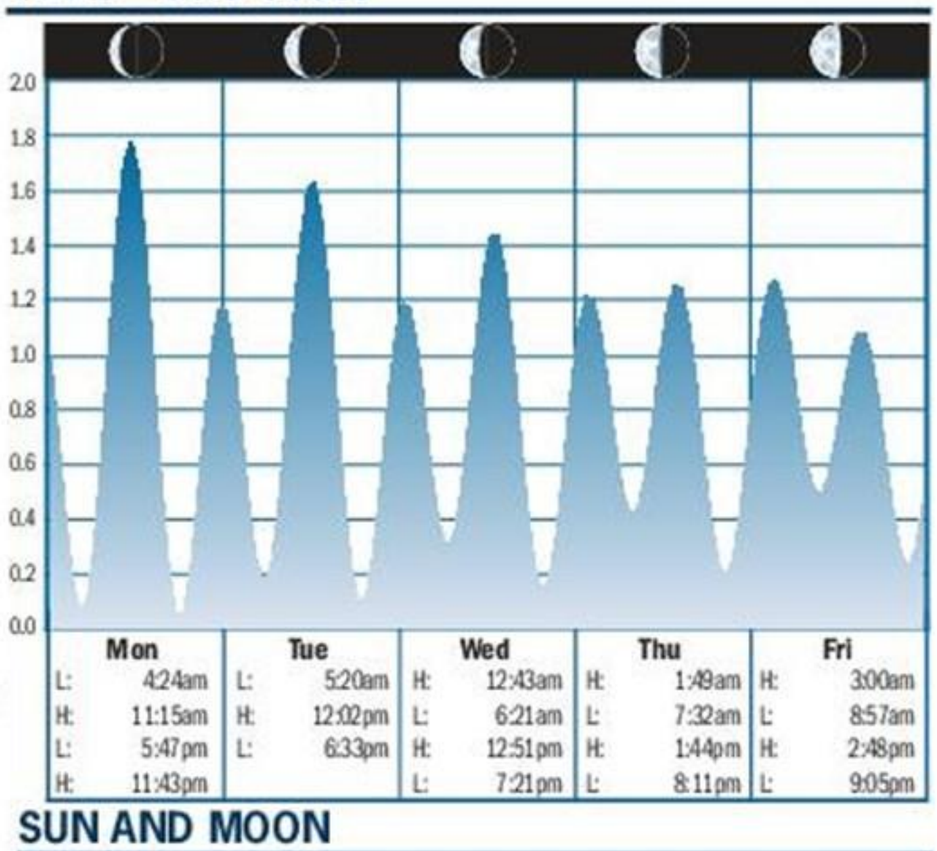
Today's forecast

January 15, 2024



MAP ICONS: sunny, mostly sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, chance shower, showers, light rain, rain, storms, windy, fog, snow

TIDES - Gold Coast



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
L: 4:24am	L: 5:20am	H: 12:43am	H: 1:49am	H: 3:00am
H: 11:15am	H: 12:02pm	L: 6:21am	L: 7:32am	L: 8:57am
L: 5:47pm	L: 6:33pm	H: 12:51pm	H: 1:44pm	H: 2:48pm
H: 11:43pm		L: 7:21pm	L: 8:11pm	L: 9:05pm

SUN AND MOON

First	Full	Last	New
Jan 18	Jan 26	Feb 3	Feb 10

Today: **Sunrise** 5:06 am **Sunset** 6:48 pm **Moonrise** 8:50 am **Moonset** 9:49 pm

Warnings:
Latest info at **www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings**
or 1300 659 210 (local call cost)
Issued for Mon, 15 January 2024

The Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au

COASTAL WATERS

Cape Moreton to Point Danger
Winds: Southeasterly 15 to 25 knots. Seas: 1 to 1.5 m, increasing to 1.5 to 2 m morning. Swell: Southeasterly 1 to 1.5 m inshore, increasing to 1.5 to 2 m offshore. Weather: Partly cloudy. 90% chance of showers.
Tuesday. Winds: Southeasterly 15 to 25 knots turning east to southeasterly 10 to 15 knots evening. Seas: 1 to 1.5 m, increasing to 1 to 2 m offshore south of Point Lookout. Swell: Southeasterly 2 to 2.5 m. Weather: Partly cloudy. 90% chance of showers.
Moreton Bay
Winds: South to southeasterly 15 to 20 knots, reaching up to 25 knots in the northern bay afternoon. Seas: Around 1 m, increasing to 1 to 1.5 m in the northern bay around midday. Weather: Partly cloudy. 90% chance of showers.
Tuesday. Winds: Southeasterly 15 to 20 knots decreasing to 10 to 15 knots evening. Seas: Around 1 m, increasing to 1 to 1.5 m in the far north. Weather: Partly cloudy. 80% chance of showers.
Double Island Point to Cape Moreton
Winds: Southeasterly 15 to 25 knots. Seas: 1 to 1.5 m, increasing to 1.5 to 2 m inshore morning. Swell: Southeasterly around 1 m inshore, increasing to 1.5 m offshore. Weather: Partly cloudy. 90% chance of showers.
Point Danger to Wooli
Winds: Southeasterly 15 to 20 knots, reaching up to 25 knots south of Cape Byron afternoon and evening. Seas: 1 to 1.5 m, increasing to 1 to 2 m south of Cape Byron. Swell: Southeasterly 1.5 m, increasing to 1.5 to 2 m around midday. Weather: Partly cloudy. 90% chance of showers.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

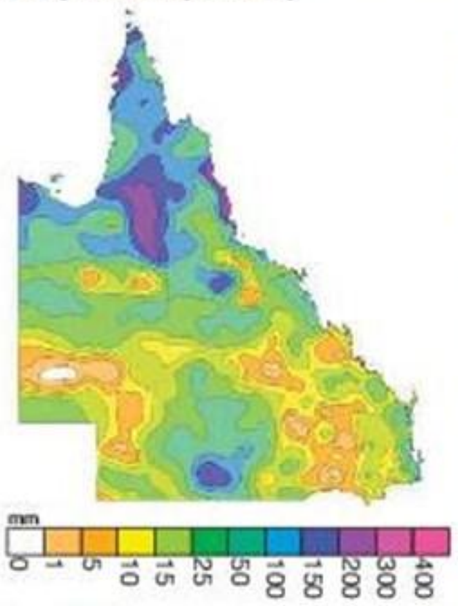
Adelaide	Mostly sunny.	33	Gold Coast	Showers.	29
Albury	Partly cloudy.	30	Hobart	Partly cloudy.	23
Alice Springs	Mostly sunny.	40	Melbourne	Mostly sunny.	28
Bourke	Shower, storm.	36	Mildura	Shower or two, storm.	34
Brisbane	Showers.	30	Mt. Gambier	Sunny.	32
Broome	Partly cloudy.	34	Perth	Sunny.	37
Cairns	Showers.	30	Sunshine Coast	Showers.	28
Canberra	Shower or two.	20	Sydney	Showers easing.	24
Darwin	Rain, storm, falls.	29	Townsville	Showers.	31

WORLD CENTRES

Auckland	20	26	showers	London	-1	2	sunny
Bangkok	25	36	fine	Los Angeles	9	18	sunny
Beijing	-9	4	fine	New Delhi	4	19	cold
Cape Town	17	26	fine	New York	-5	1	sunny
Christchurch	12	17	showers	Paris	1	3	sunny
Dubai	16	27	fine	Rome	7	15	mist
Hong Kong	18	24	sunny	Singapore	24	32	storms
Honolulu	19	27	sunny	Suva	25	29	storms
Jakarta	26	29	rain	Tokyo	3	11	fine

Rainfall

7 days to 9am yesterday

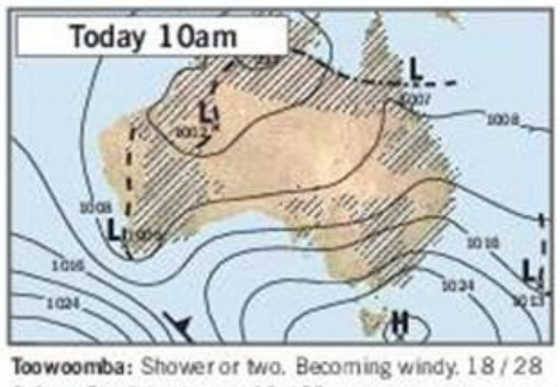


Location	Daily	Weekly	Month to date
Amberley	0.0	27.4	78.4
Applethorpe	0.2	26.6	34.8
Beaudesert	0.0	16.4	109.6
Brisbane	0.2	54.2	114.2
Bundaberg	1.0	15.2	56.0
Charleville	0.0	79.6	127.6
Coolangatta	0.0	72.8	130.2
Dalby	0.0	9.6	10.0
Gatton	0.0	5.0	14.2
Gayndah	0.0	1.6	3.0
Gympie	0.2	40.4	70.8
Hervey Bay	2.4	34.2	52.2
Kingaroy	0.0	4.4	5.0
Maroochydore	0.0	16.8	281.6
Maryborough	3.8	40.4	77.4
Miles	0.0	2.0	5.0
Nambour	0.2	63.0	245.8
Oakey	0.0	10.2	11.8
Roma	0.0	2.6	34.8
St George	0.0	2.0	20.4
Stanthorpe	0.1	25.6	29.3
Tewantin	0.2	46.4	238.0
Toowoomba	0.0	23.2	34.2
Warwick	0.0	4.0	4.0

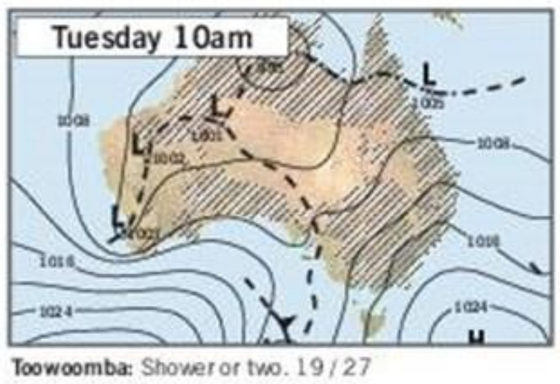
SunSmart
Toowoomba
Sun protection recommended between
7:40am to 4:10pm

CHART KEY

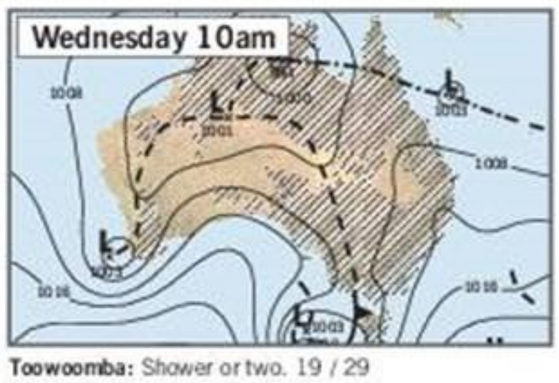
Isobars — 1016 (hectopascals) — Cold Front ▲▲ Warm Front ◗◗ Trough - - - - Rain - 24 hrs to 10am



Toowoomba: Shower or two. Becoming windy. 18 / 28
Oakey: Possible shower. 19 / 33
Dalby : Becoming windy. Partly cloudy. 19 / 34
Gatton: Shower or two. 20 / 31
Laidley: Shower or two. 20 / 31
Warwick: Possible shower. 18 / 29



Toowoomba: Shower or two. 19 / 27
Oakey: Possible shower. 19 / 32
Dalby : Partly cloudy. 20 / 34
Gatton: Shower or two. 21 / 29
Laidley: Shower or two. 20 / 29
Warwick: Shower or two. 19 / 29



Toowoomba: Shower or two. 19 / 29
Oakey: Possible shower. 19 / 34
Dalby : Possible shower. 20 / 36
Gatton: Shower or two. 21 / 32
Laidley: Shower or two. 21 / 32
Warwick: Shower or two. 19 / 32

TCHE01201MA - V1

buy search sell .com.au

Welcome to Australia's leading network of trusted local classifieds

To place business advertising
13 11 13 or buysearchsell.com.au

Adults

Adult & Escort Services

ABSOLUTE
AMAZING
SEXY AMY
Mature Unwind & Relax
In/Out Calls 7 Days.
0439 180 115

Debbie
Mature
58 yo
Private
Residence
0499 427 255

Genuine Asian beauty
professional & discreet. Sexy
Toowoomba based
In/Out Call 0449 964 963

JOJO NEW TO TOWN
100% Real picture,
Hot, glamorous
2 Yo Slim
In/Out call
Mega Extras, No rush
0449 868 168

TOOWOOMBA
Asian Gorgeous
Sexy&Slim Busty
Just Arrived
In/Out Call
Sth Toowoomba
0491352252

Notices

Proposed Development Notices

Proposed Development

Make a submission from
15 January - 8 February 2024
Warehouse (Use of Existing Silos by Other Parties)
Where: 128 Kingsthorpe-Haden Road, Kingsthorpe
On: Lots 181 on AG880, 182 on AG881, 50 on AG197 & 69 on AG2572
Approval sought: Development permit
Application ref: MCU/2023/1277
You may obtain a copy of the application and make a submission to:
Toowoomba Regional Council
PO Box 3021, Toowoomba Q 4350
www.trc.qld.gov.au
131872
development@trc.qld.gov.au
Public notification requirements are in accordance with the Planning Act 2016

Public Notices

VISITING HOURS

BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL:
Phone 4616 6000

ST ANDREW'S:
Enquiries (07) 4646 3000
St Andrew's welcomes visitors to our hospital during the hours of 11:00am to 8:00pm.
For up-to-date visiting information and arrangements, please visit our website at hga.org.au or social media, or contact our friendly Reception Team.

ST VINCENT'S:
General Enquiries 07 4690 4000
Visiting hours are from 4am-8pm
Please use
Entrance 1: Patient Access or 3 Discharge
Entrances 2, 3 & 4: Doctors' Appointments
Entrance 6: Visitors, Emergency Department, CT, X-Ray and Intensive Care Unit
For up-to-date information and a list of our Specialties, please visit svph.org.au
Parenting Class Bookings
07 4690 4127, 8am-3:30pm Mon-Fri

TOOWOOMBA HOSPICE:
Please phone 4659 8500 for visiting times as these may vary due to individual care & person's needs.

TOOWOOMBA HOSPITAL:
Phone 4616 6000
Please note: Staff may vary visitor access in response to patient care needs
General hours 11am - 8pm
Harbison (maternity), Birth Suite and Special Care Nursery
11am - 12pm and 4pm till 7pm
Acute Mental Health Unit
Mon to Fri: 3pm - 8pm,
weekends and public holidays 9am-8pm
Toowoomba Hospital Childbirth Education Classes are held every second Saturday. Contact Antenatal Clinic on 4616 6201 to book. For information on breastfeeding, application and hours of maternity visitor please contact 4616 6201

Celebrations

Birthdays

Valerie Kay Black - Happy 80th Birthday!

Happy 80th birthday to our beloved grandmother and great-grandmother. Thank you for a lifetime filled with love and kindness. We cherish every moment, both in person and the FaceTime calls we share. Sending love from London - Cameron, Sarah and Poppy

Game on!
Find classic video games at Buy Search Sell.

buy search sell .com.au

Backyard need some sprucing?

buy search sell .com.au

Get your skates on
Discover heaps of sports equipment at Buy Search Sell.

buy search sell .com.au

TAB WARWICK RACES

TODAY TAB CODE: BR

DOWNLOAD THE TAB APP

DAILY DOUBLE 6 & 8
EARLY QUAD 1, 2, 3, 4
TREBLE 6, 7, 8
QUADDIE 5, 6, 7, 8

1 12.58 STITCH N WEAR EMBROIDERY PLATE EQ1

1350m. $22,000. Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

	FORM	HORSE (BARRIER)	JOCKEY	WGT	RTG	ODDS
1	66674	DUSTYIAM (4) (h)	Ms M Savva	58.5	83	26.00
2	76942	LE GAGNEUR (11)	C Sutherland (a3)	58.5	91	13.00
3	s6383	SNAKE SKIN (12)	J Molloy (a)	58.5	87	7.50
4	08	SPHERECRAAFT (13)	W O'Connell	58.5	85	34.00
5	6s555	DEE STORMED (15)	J Guthmann-Chetri	57	96	★2.50
6	28s09	TOTSPUR (1)	Ms C Eaton	57	100	26.00
7	09	WHISKY TYCOON (10)	Ms L Barr (a2)	57	70	51.00
8	0s867	AKEED'S GIRL (6)	C Taylor	56.5	76	81.00
9	4s973	MADAM ROCK (7)	Scratched	56.5		–
10	96476	SEVERINE (9) (h)	K Yoshida	56.5	83	10.00
11	8s3	TRUST A KITTY (14)	W D'Avila	56.5	98	8.50
12	9s9	BRAVE HOSHI (5)	K H Zechner	55	70	41.00
13	80	KICKS AND GIGGLES (2)	Ms G Cartwright	55	78	31.00
14	623s0	THE LITTLE SPARROW (8)	Ms T Brooker	55	93	7.50

EMERGENCY

15	875s8	VAIN LUKE (3) (h)	Ms S Wilcock (a1.5)	58.5	75	101.00

DEE STORMED 1, Snakeskin 2, The Little Sparrow 3

GEAR CHANGES

RACE 1: (4) Spherecraaft blinkers on first time; (6) Totspur tongue-tie off first time **RACE 2:** (4) Primary Witness blinkers on again, nose roll off first time; (6) Smoke 'N' Oakum pre-race ear muffs on first time, gelded, tongue-tie on first time; (8) The Magician blinkers on first time; (11) Smash It Maddi winkers on first time; (13) Gypsy White Socks blinkers on again, winkers off first time; (14) Summer Ready blinkers on first time **RACE 4:** (1) Big Sky Country gelded, lugging bit on first time; (4) Gypsy Tricks cross-over noseband off first time, tongue-tie off first time; (11) Story Of Stella cross-over noseband on first time, tongue-tie on first time; (12) Bedaub blinkers on again, tongue-tie on again **RACE 5:** (1) Private Banker blinkers off again, winkers on again; (6) Easy Come front pads on again; (7) Stryking Princess nose roll off again; (10) Licenced And Ready blinkers on again **RACE 6:** (1) Whyteepee cross-over noseband on first time, lugging bit on first time, winkers off first time; (2) Michita gelded; (3) Rothsphene near-side bubble cheeker on first time, cross-over noseband on first time, gelded; (6) Time To Launch tongue-tie on first time; (7) Too Much Makeup blinkers off first time, compression hood with ear muffs on first time, ear muffs off first time; (12) Ruby Red blinkers on first time, tongue-tie on first time; (13) Shintaro Lass blinkers off first time, pre-race ear muffs on first time; (14) Stella Enigma tongue-tie on first time; (15) Mister winkers on first time; (16) Madame Moth blinkers on first time, pre-race ear muffs on first time; (19) Smokin' De Quo blinkers on first time; (20) Mandalong Hellcat tongue-tie on first time; (21) All Win pre-race ear muffs off first time, winkers off first time; (23) War Hope dually headcollar off first time, pre-race ear muffs off first time **RACE 7:** (5) Private Banker blinkers off again, winkers on again **RACE 8:** (8) Five Star Decanter tongue-tie off first time; (12) Bernmark cheekers on first time, tongue-control bit on first time, tongue-tie off first time; (17) Instant Response visors on first time, winkers off first time

THE DETAILS

RAIL: True **TRACK:** Good (4)

2 1.33 WARWICK SANDSTONE PLATE EQ2

1350m. $22,000. Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	63s74	ADELATION (15)	K Yoshida	58.5	88	21.00
2	0	BETTER EXCEED (7)	Ms M Savva	58.5	78	31.00
3	8s905	MARLEE'S ZANDER (10)	Ms G Cartwright	58.5	92	26.00
4	0s269	PRIMARY WITNESS (12)	J Huxtable	58.5	82	15.00
5	9s480	TIME FOR JACK (5)	B Loy	58.5	81	21.00
6		SMOKE 'N' OAKUM (1)	C Bayliss	57	87	17.00
7	36452	SPECIALTIE (4)	E Chaves	57	97	8.50
8	8	THE MAGICIAN (6)	B Appo	57	72	26.00
9	3s373	LOVE ON DISPLAY (13)	Ms B Ainsworth	56.5	99	4.80
10	94046	RED HOT LOVE (14) (h)	N Tomizawa	56.5	84	21.00
11	387s6	SMASH IT MADDI (9)	Jai Williams (a)	56.5	93	6.50
12	6s932	UNLEASH (2) (b)	K H Zechner	56.5	100	★2.90
13	s9580	GYPSY WHITE SOCKS (8)	Ms T Brooker	55	81	34.00
14	6	SUMMER READY (16)	Scratched	55		–

EMERGENCIES

15	86377	RODEO LEGEND (11)	Ms T Noble (a3)	58.5	88	61.00
16	99097	ENTERPRISE FUSE (3) (h)		56.5	74	101.00

UNLEASH 1, Love On Display 2, Smash It Maddi 3, Specialtie 4

3 2.08 CARS MADE EASY EQ3

800m. $20,000. Benchmark 70. Apprentices can claim.

1	0231s	DREAM WEAVING (1) (dw)	C Sutherland (a3)	61	95	5.50
2	2009s	ICED (2) (tn)	Ms G Cartwright	61	94	26.00
3	13560	TURBOART (6) (wn)	J Huxtable	60.5	78	11.00
4	s4422	POLYLITHIC (NZ) (7) (wn)	B Loy	60	93	★4.80
5	61666	BRING ME KASH (4) (dw)	Scratched	59		–
6	21111	HOT OR NOT (5) (dn)	Scratched	59		–
7	81828	COPPER SUNSET (3) (dcw)	N Tomizawa	55.5	86	18.00
8	7s702	AMANECER (8) (w)	Scratched	54		–

POLYLITHIC 1, Dream Weaving 2

4 2.48 WESTSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE PLATE EQ4

800m. $20,000. Class 1 SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	s35s1	BIG SKY COUNTRY (3)	Ms E Lang (a)	60	100	★3.20
2	2s121	CHISUM (14) (h)	P Hamblin	60	97	5.00
3	673s0	ELECTRIC (11) (w)	B Loy	60	81	21.00
4	1s704	GYPSY TRICKS (NZ) (9)	L J Miller	60	93	6.50
5	3081	NOW AND BEN (7)	J Huxtable	60	85	18.00
6	615s	BLACK COUNTRY (13)	Ms S McCann (a2)	58.5	82	34.00
7	43586	ACIREMA (15)	Jai Williams (a)	58	84	12.00
8	7s702	AMANECER (4) (w)	W D'Avila	58	88	12.00
9	s9416	ELKA ELEVEN (1) (n)	Ms G Cartwright	58	82	21.00
10	1	I'M A TINY DANCER (10) (dtcnh)	K Yoshida	58	87	10.00
11	46360	STORY OF STELLA (12) (wn)	J Molloy (a)	58	81	21.00
12	240s7	BEDAUB (2)	Ms T Brooker	56.5	92	18.00

EMERGENCIES

13	62859	SHE'S SO VAIN (6)		58	72	51.00
14	3274s	WHISTLIN' RULER (8)		60	84	13.00
15	8804s	INVANESS (5)	Ms S Willis (a2)	58	72	51.00

BIG SKY COUNTRY 1, Chisum 2, Gypsy Tricks 3, I'm A Tiny Dancer 4

5 3.28 DARLING DOWNS HARNESS RACING CLUB Q1

1200m. $20,000. Benchmark 60. Apprentices can claim.

1	18435	PRIVATE BANKER (8)	Scratched	61		–
2	25237	ONE REASON (2) (ri)	Ms S Champkin (a2)	60	100	4.00
3	275s5	DAD'S LAD (10) (h)	Ms L Barr (a2)	58.5	95	14.00
4	03770	BOBBY AXELROD (1) (tw)	T Leslight (a1.5)	58	76	18.00
5	71259	HEART OF MARBLE (6) (d)	J Molloy (a)	57	98	8.50
6	14123	EASY COME (9) (dwn)	Ms T Noble (a3)	56	96	14.00
7	2605s	STRYKING PRINCESS (4) (dnh)	N Tomizawa	56	85	41.00
8	33133	SEIRYU (5) (dwn)	Ms T Brooker	55.5	94	5.50
9	65s13	TATTLE (3) (dnb)	Ms G Cartwright	55.5	98	★3.20
10	21170	LICENCED AND READY (7) (dh)	Ms C Eaton	55	81	51.00
11	61333	EYE WANTED (12)	Scratched	54		–
12	70094	WHISTLE HOFF (11) (dwn)	K H Zechner	54	92	21.00
13	58080	WHISTLIN' ARROW (13) (dw)		54	75	51.00

ONE REASON 1, Tattle 2, Seiryu 3, Heart Of Marble 4

6 4.08 WARWICK HOTEL PLATE DD1 Q2

1100m. $22,000. Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	03366	WHYTEEPEE (9)	J Huxtable	58.5	82	21.00
2		MICHITA (6)	Ms M Savva	57	72	14.00
3		ROTHSPHENE (3)	Ms Y Lewis (a)	57	81	15.00
4	s375s	ROMANTIC THOUGHTS (19)	N Tomizawa	56.5	93	8.50
5		TANTALISING (20)	Ms S Wilcock (a1.5)	56.5	86	18.00
6	224s3	TIME TO LAUNCH (18)	Scratched	56.5		–
7	0349s	TOO MUCH MAKEUP (7) (h)	W D'Avila	56.5	93	14.00
8	92	BELEGATO (NZ) (12)	Scratched	55.5		–
9	226s2	EXCLUSIVE DROP (10)	T Leslight (a1.5)	55	95	★7.50
10		JUNGLE LAW (1)	Ms L Barr (a2)	55	81	14.00
11	38s94	PRINCESS LUTETIA (11)	Scratched	55		–
12		RUBY RED (14) (h)	Ms T Noble (a3)	55	84	19.00
13		SHINTARO LASS (16)	Scratched	55		–
14		STELLA ENIGMA (22)	Ms G Cartwright	55	76	8.50

EMERGENCIES

15	3s5	MISTER (15)	Ms E Lang (a)	57	90	14.00
16	6	MADAME MOTH (23)	Ms B Ainsworth	55	83	18.00
17	9s	GOTEBO (17)	Ms S Champkin (a2)	58.5	91	14.00
18	0	LITTLE VAIN (2) (h)	K Yoshida	58.5	72	61.00
19	9s	SMOKIN' DE QUO (21)	C Bayliss	56.5	79	18.00
20	9s6	MANDALONG HELLCAT (13) (h)		55	72	31.00
21	55s	ALL WIN (5)		58.5	90	14.00
22	7760s	NORTHWOOD POPPET (4)		56.5	75	61.00
23	558s7	WAR HOPE (8)		58.5	73	51.00

EXCLUSIVE DROP 1, Romantic Thoughts 2, Stella Enigma 3

7 4.48 SUPPORT CANCER CURE FOR MATT STANDING Q3

1350m. $20,000. Benchmark 62. Apprentices can claim.

1	s3170	MOST DAZZLING (4) (dwn)		63.5	100	7.50
2	41865	KING OF THE DESERT (1) (wn)	Ms S Champkin (a2)	61.5	100	15.00
3	65256	PREPOTENT (3) (twn)	K H Zechner	60.5	98	★4.20
4	12713	DEELOSH (5)		60	99	5.50
5	18435	PRIVATE BANKER (7)	B Loy	60	95	8.50
6	21524	CHARGED (10) (dwn)	Ms G Cartwright	59	95	12.00
7	321s7	TAKUNAI (11) (twn)	Ms R Jamieson	59	86	18.00
8	0s237	BEAN ROCKING (6) (w)	J Huxtable	58.5	94	12.00
9	52315	DREAMSEEKER (12) (dcwb)		58.5	94	15.00
10	17534	SPIRIT'S CHARM (2) (dw)	Ms T Brooker	58	93	16.00
11	13328	DAZZLING FLASH (8) (wn)	T Leslight (a1.5)	57.5	87	13.00
12	66348	BULL DIMPLE RUM (13) (wnb)	Scratched	56		–
13	72868	SIR PICCOLO (14) (dtcw)	K Yoshida	55.5	85	41.00
14	06535	HERECUMDA DRUMS (9) (dcw)	N Tomizawa	54	99	16.00

PREPOTENT 1, Deelosh 2, Most Dazzling 3, Private Banker 4

8 5.25 ENSBEY ELECTRICAL HCP DD2 Q4

1500m. $20,000. Class 2. Apprentices can claim.

1	s5082	KUBWA (7)	J Huxtable	60	99	8.50
2	13526	SUPER DUCK (15) (hb)	W D'Avila	58	88	6.00
3	90s22	IRISH SALLY (10) (h)	K H Zechner	57.5	100	★3.20
4	627s2	MOUNT ZION (14) (w)	Ms R Jamieson	57.5	85	8.50
5	155s0	AMPHAWA (17) (dw)	Scratched	57		–
6	49617	ISLA'S DAY (1) (dw)		57	98	6.00
7	26604	DARCHINIAN (2) (w)	N Tomizawa	56	91	17.00
8	480s5	FIVE STAR DECANTER (NZ) (8)	Ms G Cartwright	55.5	87	34.00
9	327s0	LAWBREAKER (5)	C Bayliss	55.5	99	12.00
10	79s08	MONACO DELUXE (3)	Ms A Donald (a)	55	74	61.00
11	57274	SCAPINI (11)	Ms S Champkin (a2)	54.5	90	8.50
12	9s660	BERNMARK (9) (d)	Ms E Lang (a)	54	81	26.00
13	12069	TEMPTRESS KATIE (16) (w)	C Taylor	54	84	31.00
14	77102	REDVEDEV (NZ) (13)	Ms M Savva	54	84	41.00

EMERGENCIES

15	54697	SINNAMON TOAST (4)		54	78	61.00
16	7s696	BETTER CLASS (6)		54	84	26.00
17	83489	INSTANT RESPONSE (18) (w)	Ms L Barr (a2)	54	81	51.00
18	89759	FAITHFUL MARYANNE (12) (wn)		54	81	101.00

IRISH SALLY 1, Isla's Day 2, Super Duck 3, Scapini 4

© 2024 RISA (and other parties working with it). Racing Materials, including fields and form, is subject to copyright which is owned by RISA and other parties working with it.

TAB MUSWELLBROOK RACES

TODAY TAB CODE: CR

DAILY DOUBLE 5 & 7
EARLY QUAD 1, 2, 3, 4
TREBLE 5, 6, 7
QUADDIE 4, 5, 6, 7

1 12.35 HORSEPOWER HANDICAP EQ1

1000m. $27,000. Class 1. Apprentices can claim.

	FORM	HORSE (BARRIER)	JOCKEY	WGT	RTG	ODDS
1	23596	MYSWEETMOSES (2)	A Morgan	62	95	4.00
2	413s8	FLYING BIRDS (8)	M Bell	61	92	11.00
3	1	DIZE (7) (d)	Ms A Roper (a)	58.5	100	5.00
4	8060s	SCHWOON (4) (dw)	Ms R Birnett Pryg (a3)	58	89	13.00
5	044s0	SIPPITY SIP (6) (dw)	G Buckley	58	94	7.00
6	4s517	SNITZAROO (5) (d)	A Bullock	58	100	★3.50
7	726s6	MARAMOTI (NZ) (9)	B Osmond (a2)	56	88	13.00
8	13s33	STORM'S END (10) (wb)	Ms J Duggan	56	93	7.00
9	17980	CATCH ME OUT (3) (t)	D Mc Lellan	55	78	51.00
10	810s6	SNOW STAR (1)	Matthew Palmer	55	85	34.00

SNITZAROO 1, Mysweetmoses 2, Dize 3, Sippity Sip 4

2 1.10 TAB SUMMER SIZZLER EQ2

1000m. $27,000. Open. Apprentices can claim.

1	53147	OUTREACH TO HENRY (2) (dw)	A Gibbons	61	96	★2.50
2	5s149	SHARKIM (9) (dw)		60	88	9.00
3	4s163	CUSTO (4) (dtcwb)	M Bell	59.5	98	3.00
4	s4074	GIDGEE GUY (6) (dtcw)	G Buckley	59.5	91	7.00
5	43665	I'M NOT SLEW (7) (dtc)	R Jones	58.5	100	9.00
6	5631s	SECRET SPY (1)	A Bullock	58	99	13.00
7	1707s	POWDERFINGER (5) (w)	A Morgan	55	93	17.00
8	21546	NOSEY (3) (dtcw)	Ms A Roper (a)	55	85	26.00
9	7490s	SILICA SAND (8) (w)	B Osmond (a2)	55	75	34.00

OUTREACH TO HENRY 1, Custo 2, Gidgee Guy 3, Sharkim 4

3 1.45 BENGALLA PLATE EQ3

1450m. $30,000. Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	987s8	DEIFIC (2)	Ms R Birnett Pryg (a2)	59	81	101.00
2	09905	GOLDEN RIVER GIFT (7)	Ms R Birnett Pryg (a3)	59	86	51.00
3	59840	MASTER TYLER (NZ) (9)		59	83	51.00
4	24s52	MEDINAH (6) (b)	A Bullock	59	100	★2.25
5	596s7	SELVAM (10)	Matthew Palmer	59	80	41.00
6	0	JAMESY (4)	Ms M Weir	57.5	90	21.00
7	45s56	JUST BREATHE (1)	K Jennings	57	90	17.00
8	6s672	ULTIMATE REIGN (8) (hb)	J Van Overmeire	57	92	11.00
9	00s75	EMPRESS OF MILAN (5)	A Morgan	55.5	82	21.00
10	3	IMAGE OF THE SUN (11)	G Buckley	55.5	93	2.50
11	575s6	M'LADY'S LUCK (3) (h)	Ms A Roper (a)	55.5	94	9.00

MEDINAH 1, Image Of The Sun 2, M'lady's Luck 3, Ultimate Reign 4

4 2.20 TAB HANDICAP EQ4 Q1

1450m. $30,000. Class 1. Apprentices can claim.

1	5s827	RURA PENTHE (5)	A Bullock	60.5	95	7.00
2	150s3	HALLOWED SON (1) (t)	J Woodhouse	59	93	11.00
3	56124	GOLD SMILES (10) (w)	K Jennings	56.5	91	13.00
4	1	MY RIVIERA (9) (w)	A Morgan	56.5	100	★3.50
5	721	OUTBACK CRUMPET (11) (dh)	Ms M Weir	56.5	91	8.00
6	3s31	ZIPPO IDEA (7) (tw)	R Jones	56.5	99	4.75
7	37491	POWER TO DECEIVE (12) (h)	Ms C Hodgatte (a2)	55.5	95	11.00
8	77s45	WHITE ARENDELLE (2) (wh)	Ms J Duggan	55.5	94	9.00
9	77481	ARTELIMAR (6) (h)	Ms A Roper (a)	55	99	13.00
10	8s465	IRISH KIN (4) (wh)	J Van Overmeire	55	85	26.00
11	99987	RANSOMING (8) (dw)	Ms M Fitzgerald (a2)	55	81	34.00
12	38s19	READY FOR LIFT OFF (3)	G Buckley	55	87	26.00

MY RIVIERA 1, Zippo Idea 2, Rura Penthe 3, Outback Crumpet 4

THE DETAILS

RAIL: Out 3m from the 1000m to the 300m, cutaway applies, then true for the remainder. **TRACK:** Soft (5)

5 3.00 GREAT NORTHERN HANDICAP DD1 Q2

1000m. $27,000. Maiden. Apprentices can claim.

1	5s623	SUPER STORY (9)	R Jones	59	90	5.00
2	89s	SMART JAZZ (10)	A Bullock	58.5	87	34.00
3		THE BENTLEY (6)	A Gibbons	58.5	84	41.00
4	6	BEERS MADE FROM WATER (12)	G Buckley	57.5	83	13.00
5	s632s	SKY ARTIST (8)	H Van Der Hoven	57.5	100	4.00
6	4s764	CATCHY TUNES (13)	Scratched	57		–
7	5674s	UNCLE ALF (7)		57	93	9.00
8		CORDIALITY (5)	J Van Overmeire	56.5	87	15.00
9		ROCKBARTON FASHION (4)	C Reith	56.5	75	21.00
10	s0s90	AL'S ROSE (14)	D Mc Lellan	56	75	101.00
11	5s63	CLAN D'ORO (11)	Ms A Roper (a)	56	100	★3.50
12	s9878	UFANA (1)	M Bell	56	87	51.00
13	67280	VINLAGO (3) (h)	D Northey	56	82	51.00
14	06257	WAR WINGS (2)	Ms R Birnett Pryg (a3)	56	84	34.00

CLAN D'ORO 1, Sky Artist 2, Super Story 3, Uncle Alf 4

6 3.40 BE A EQUUS MEMBER@MUSWELLBROOK Q3

1280m. $27,000. Maiden. Apprentices can claim.

1	23s83	WEZZA (13)	A Morgan	59	100	★3.25
2	286s	ETCHED IN TIME (5)	J Van Overmeire	58.5	93	7.00
3		BLUE AS (10)	A Bullock	57.5	90	11.00
4	7s	NAMOI RIVER (2)	H Van Der Hoven	57.5	93	21.00
5	5	PLUCKTEN (3)	Ms A Roper (a)	57.5	85	11.00
6	432s	ROCKBARTON ISLAND (9)	C Reith	57.5	92	7.00
7	3s52	ART VOLANT (1)	M Bell	56.5	96	6.00
8	88655	AAYLA SECURA (4)	G Buckley	55	90	13.00
9	0s9	AWESOME ICON (8)	Ms M Weir	55	75	51.00
10	070s8	BIGBETTERBEST (6) (h)	M Squires	55	76	51.00
11	52864	RANHITA (7)	A Gibbons	55	90	11.00
12	09s80	SISTER JOSEPHINE (12) (h)	Ms M Fitzgerald (a2)	55	77	51.00
13	78437	TIME TO TURN (11)	Ms J Duggan	55	83	9.00

WEZZA 1, Art Volant 2, Time To Turn 3, Etched In Time 4

7 4.20 BHP MT ARTHUR HANDICAP DD2 Q4

1280m. $27,000. Benchmark 58 Class 2+. Apprentices can claim.

1	9s548	OAKFIELD STORM (9) (w)	A Bullock	62.5	98	11.00
2	18s87	DEVIL'S INN (7) (dtcwh)	B Osmond (a2)	60.5	93	13.00
3	363s9	HARD TO DISMISS (12) (dh)	Ms M Fitzgerald (a2)	60.5	96	9.00
4	s4s64	NAPOLI (13) (dw)	M Bell	60	99	6.00
5	63327	FOOLISH (3) (dtcw)	A Morgan	59.5	100	★4.50
6	9s400	TOUGH CASE (5) (dtcw)	D Mc Lellan	59	87	13.00
7	s7299	PREFER TO BE READY (NZ) (4) (w)	J Van Overmeire	58	85	17.00
8	27s08	NOBLE PLUCK (8) (w)	D Bennett (a3)	57.5	90	13.00
9	56633	SHIKANIC (11) (twb)	R Jones	57.5	95	6.00
10	08840	DEECE SCENT KISS (6) (wn)	A Gibbons	56.5	92	11.00
11	08185	ISLEDON (10) (dtcwb)	Ms A Roper (a)	56.5	99	8.00
12	18s00	MOVIN' DENMAN (1) (dw)	C Reith	55.5	89	26.00
13	70297	TWITTERSPHERE (2) (h)	B Gray	55	82	17.00

FOOLISH 1, Shikanic 2, Isledon 3, Oakfield Storm 4

TAB DUBBO RACES

TODAY TAB CODE: SR

DAILY DOUBLE 5 & 7
EARLY QUAD 1, 2, 3, 4
TREBLE 5, 6, 7
QUADDIE 4, 5, 6, 7

THE DETAILS

RAIL: True **TRACK:** Soft (5)
TAB FIXED ODDS ALL RACES

1 12.50 COCA COLA NO SUGAR PLATE EQ1

1100m. $22,000. C,H&G Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

	FORM	HORSE (BARRIER)	JOCKEY	WGT	RTG	ODDS
1	4	CALMUNDI (7)	W A Stanley (a1.5)	59	75	81.00
2	0s332	CANNY PROSPECT (6) (b)	N Heywood	59	100	★1.80
3	2549s	LUSKIN VAIN (8)	Ms C Ings	59	87	21.00
4	6	PLATINUM WARRIOR (2) (h)	Ms S Ingelse (a2)	59	84	12.00
5		BYRON'S FARM (5)	B Nock (a1.5)	57.5	77	21.00
6	2	CHEAP GAS (1)	J Pracey-Holmes	57.5	90	3.60
7	7s723	HE'S ALL STYLE (3) (h)	C Gallagher	57.5	95	3.60
8	6	PARTYGATE (4)	Scratched	57.5		–

CANNY PROSPECT 1, He's All Style 2, Cheap Gas 3, Calmundi 4

2 1.25 BARASTOC RACE N WIN PLATE EQ2

1100m. $22,000. F&M Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	0569s	CAMP COVE (4) (h)	M Stapleford (a3)	58	91	19.00
2	0s089	KERMIE GAL (8)	K Dunbar	58	78	101.00
3	8s520	PAINITE (7)	A Cavallo	58	87	11.00
4	04204	SALLISTA (3)		58	88	16.00
5	68s33	TAKEN FOR GRANTED (11)	Scratched	58		–
6	47s2	CHOICE WITNESS (5) (b)	C Vitler (a2)	56.5	100	★1.65
7	9	DERVINIA (12) (h)	R Simpson (a)	56.5	81	18.00
8		DON'T TELL TARA (1) (h)	Ms K Bell-Pitsmoc	56.5	79	21.00
9	0	FLASH DANDINO (10) (h)	M Heagney	56.5	78	101.00
10	60s9	FLYING NINA (2)	M A Cahill	56.5	78	31.00
11		GRAND OYSTER (9) (h)	Ms A Cooper (a3)	56.5	85	7.50
12		VERENDY (6)	B Nock (a1.5)	56.5	94	5.50

SALLISTA 1, Choice Witness 2, Verendy 3, Painite 4

3 2.00 DESSPOS SOLUTIONS EQ3

1400m. $30,000. Maiden. Apprentices can claim.

1	24s52	MEDINAH (2) (b)		59	97	★2.60
2	00s7	TAKE IT ON THE RUN (10) (h)	R Simpson (a)	56.5	76	81.00
3	36825	DALANTE (11) (h)	M Heagney	55.5	90	41.00
4	6	DANCES WITH HOOVES (4) (b)	M A Cahill	55.5	94	4.00
5	8s455	FREEWHEELER (1)	C Vitler (a2)	55.5	98	5.00
6	9s507	LAISVAS (12) (h)	M Stapleford (a3)	55.5	87	21.00
7	74	MISSION MUMMABEAR (3) (h)	C Gallagher	55.5	91	10.00
8	04724	SENSEI JACKIE (7) (h)	J Pracey-Holmes	55.5	97	13.00
9	6s80	SWEET BREEZE (5) (h)	Ms K Bell-Pitsmoc	55.5	73	151.00
10	54s73	THE GIT UP (6)	B Nock (a1.5)	55.5	100	10.00
11	36988	THE PERCENTAGE (8)	J Rogers	55.5	83	81.00
12	63743	UNDER ACHIEVER (NZ) (9)	A Cavallo	55.5	94	10.00

MEDINAH 1, Freewheeler 2, The Git Up 3, Dances With Hooves 4

4 2.40 MAAS MILE PLATE EQ4 Q1

1600m. $27,000. Class 1/Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim.

1	4s067	AUSSIE PHAROAH (8) (dtcw)	B Looker	59	90	41.00
2	s5624	GIRRAGULANG (5)	Ms C Hiller (a1.5)	59	89	26.00
3	4s534	HALLOWED STAR (14) (h)	R Simpson (a)	59	100	4.00
4	35137	I AM CONVINCING (4) (w)	M Stapleford (a3)	59	90	13.00
5	45324	KARAOKE KING (12) (wnb)		59	96	9.50
6	s1s99	SHADOW SHOT (3)	C Gallagher	59	81	61.00
7	67015	SNITCH'N'SNATCHING (13) (dw)	S Lisnyy	59	91	21.00
8	147s8	ZOUCAN TOUCAN (11)	B Nock (a1.5)	59	86	51.00
9	4s216	ROTHGATE (7) (hb)	M A Cahill	57.5	97	3.80
10	43410	DHYANI (NZ) (10) (d)	J Barrie (a2)	57	97	19.00
11	8s64	THUNDERBOLTER (9)	N Heywood	56.5	88	21.00
12	744s1	ERELLE (2)	C Vitler (a2)	55.5	93	★3.40
13	39s36	MRS BULL (1) (h)	Ms G McDonnell	55	95	15.00
14	09	TWENTY FOUR GUNS (NZ) (6)		55	79	81.00

ERELLE 1, Hallowed Star 2, Snitch

Gone in just 63 seconds for Nolan

From back page

A bumper crowd was in attendance at Toowoomba City Golf Club to cheer on the local hero and there were huge roars when Nolan made his way into the Octagon.

Those cheers were soon silenced as Motta delivered a crushing upset just over a minute later.

It was clear the bout was going to be action-packed, with both fighters trading early blows in an explosive start.

This aggression proved to be the downfall for the Queenslander as he left himself briefly exposed and Motta capitalised, with a powerful right hook knocking Nolan to the floor.

From there, the fight was Motta's for the taking as he dealt a flurry of heavy punches to Nolan before the referee stepped in and the fight was called after a mere 63 seconds.

"I knew that would be a very hard fight," Motta said.

"Tom Nolan, he's a killer. I saw him in the elevator today and I said, 'yeah, that for sure isn't going to be a boring fight'."

Despite the initial setback for his UFC debut, Nolan's opponent believed the Queenslander still had what it took to become a force in the sport.

"He's a great fighter. When I watch him fight, everything looks perfect. He was undefeated and he has a nice body type. He is crazy, six foot three," Motta said.

"I see he is so confident that he says he's going to be a UFC champion and he can do it because he is a very young guy and even though I think it was disrespectful the things he said about me, he is young too.

"When I was that young, I did things like that too and I had to learn and that's how we learn in life. We experience sometimes a bad experience but we've just got to learn from that and grow as a fighter (and) as a person."

Nolan had claimed he would deliver a first-round knockout which was a major motivating factor for the Brazilian fighter.

Former South West Queensland Futsal director Chris McLeod with incoming director Kris Hemmerling.

Futsal gets new chief

Ex-South West Thunder technical director makes switch

Lachlan Onions

There is a new face at the head of the futsal table in the South West.

Former South West Thunder women's technical director Kris Hemmerling has taken over from Chris McLeod and is eager to continue to the sport's growth.

"I haven't really been involved with futsal but I have been involved with football for all my life," Hemmerling said.

"Watching the sport develop, the way the women's game has developed in the last five years, I think the next step is futsal and I can see that growing and becoming one of the leading sports in Australia because it is really fast and exciting.

"I just want to develop the game but I can't stress what a great job Chris McLeod has done so far.

"I have known Chris for a long time and I am hopeful he will be around to help us for a long time because his knowledge and experience is second to none."

Having been director for the past two years, McLeod is eager to remain involved with the sport and was excited to see what Hemmerling will do with the game.

"I have been in the role for two years and I will return to teaching but I will continue in the futsal world assisting Kris if he needs it," McLeod said. "Hopefully he gives me a job with a team as we go to some of these championships because I have loved every minute of it.

"Kris is a gentleman I have known for 15 years and he has done a tremendous job with the Thunder as a technical director.

"He has done a great job as a coach, he's really affable with people and his enthusiasm and passion for games with kids is evident for everyone that sees.

"When we had to try and find a replacement and earmarked who was around here, he was at the top of the ladder. The area will lose nothing at all, it will gain a really good man at the top of the team that we have put together."

Hemmerling is looking to draw upon his experience with the South West Thunder football team to help lead the Highlanders in futsal.

"I was the technical director with the Thunder women and when I got there, it was a bit of a shambles," he said.

"There was no culture or anything like that so we developed the culture, brought in some senior players to help nurture the younger players and we have turned that into what it is now."

In terms of strategy, Hemmerling has no intention of disrupting the formula which has helped the South West region become a futsal stronghold in recent years, with several strong finishes in various national and state championships.

"The question is how do you grow something which has already started really, really well after what Chris (McLeod) has done, so that is the challenge," he said.

"I am going to step in, see how it is all running for the first year and just make minor adjustments to let it continue to grow as it is and then we will take it from there."

Arnold: Socceroos must improve at Cup

Marco Monteverde

Jordan Bos' elation at scoring his first goal for the Socceroos has been tempered by national coach Graham Arnold admitting Australia has a "lot" to improve on to have any chance of winning the Asian Cup.

The Socceroos' opened their Cup campaign in Qatar with a 2-0 win over India, and while securing three points was the ultimate objective, the Australians struggled for large periods of the game to break down their dogged and resolute rivals.

It took 50 minutes for the Socceroos to take the lead, through Jackson Irvine, before former Melbourne City prodigy Bos scored with his first touch of the game 23 minutes later after coming on as a substitute.

"It was amazing," 21-year-old Bos told *beIN Sports*.

"It was my first Socceroos goal. I was hoping for the opportunity to get on and it just fell to me first touch so I couldn't have asked for a better start.

"Second half we got the goals we deserved."

However, Arnold expected more from his side, particularly in the first half when the Socceroos were sluggish in attack despite dominating possession.

"I can honestly say that we've got to improve a lot more than that," Arnold said.

Australian goal scorer Jordan Bos.

"One disappointment was our set pieces because we work quite a lot on them, and we're very strong with set pieces but you've got to give credit to India."

"That's something we need to improve on and we will."

Arnold preached patience at halftime and admitted his team was perhaps too "excited" before the match in anticipation of the start of the tournament.

"There was a little bit of excitement and impatience. We'd been waiting for the last 10 days to get preparations right," he said.

"The messaging at halftime from me was just be patient and it will come.

"That's one game down, (and) another six to go."

Bos was confident that the Socceroos – who return to Group B action on Thursday night (AEDT) against Syria at Jassim bin Hamad Stadium – could go "all the way".

"We've got the quality and the boys to do it," said Bos, who is now based in Belgium where he plays his club football for Westerlo.

Coach's tactics will give Matidlas success

Erin Smith

Matildas midfielder Tameka Yallop says the tactics which earned Tony Gustavsson plenty of criticism will be what gets the national team over the line against Uzbekistan without goalscoring hero Sam Kerr.

As Kerr posted the first photo of herself post-surgery on Instagram, showing the thumbs up to her 1.8 million followers with her right leg in a compression bandage, the Matildas continue to plot ways to ensure they not only qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics but reach their goal of bringing home a medal.

Yallop said with Kerr ruled out of the qualifiers with an ACL injury and incredibly unlikely to play at the Olympics should the Matildas qualify – having the depth in the squad had the team confident they could deliver good results.

"It's tough for Sam and all the girls are rallying around her, it's such a major injury and for it to happen to anyone is devastating," Yallop said.

The Matildas will take on Uzbekistan for the final leg of the Olympic Qualifiers on February 24 and then in front of a home crowd on February 28.

Mitch sees Cam shaft

Johnson opposes Smith promotion, smells vendetta

Robert Craddock

Mitchell Johnson has questioned Steve Smith's promotion to opener and says selectors deserved to be asked whether Cameron Bancroft was the victim of a vendetta.

The snubbing of Bancroft has triggered a "Sandgropergate" scandal in Perth.

Locals are furious that their opener has missed a berth in the Test side to face the West Indies in Adelaide.

In his weekly column for Perth's Sunday Times published on The West Australian's website, Johnson said Smith had "long been the glue" of Australia's top order at No.4 and he could not understand the logic for changing things.

Cameron Bancroft

Steve Smith

"You can't help but wonder why (selection chairman) George Bailey and the selection panel have gone this way," Johnson wrote.

"Do they feel Smith hasn't been at his best and they think this could be a good change for him?

"There are reports that Smithy doesn't like sitting around waiting to bat but he has done that most of his career at fourth in the order – and he's been pretty good at it.

"Is it purely to fit Cam Green back in and give him a shot at No.4? I'm not a big fan of this way. You always want your best players at third and fourth in the order. It's a really interesting way of selection and anything could happen."

Bailey, who fell out with Johnson this season following the former Test quick's comments that Bailey was too close to the players, denied at his press conference that the panel or any player had any lingering bad vibes towards Bancroft following his fallout with the bowlers for comments he made about the Sandpapergate scandal.

"Bailey says there is no issue or vendetta but you can't blame Bancroft – or the public – for questioning this, if he is claiming the selection panel didn't consider the specialist opener among the nation's seven-best batters.

"It's obviously a confusing message for the West Australian, who has scored the most runs out of all those openers considered and done it over the past couple of years, so any questions around this are fair."

West Indies' bowler Kemar Roach during the second Test against England at Old Trafford in Manchester. Picture: AFP

COACH'S PLEA TO SAVE TEST CRICKET

Daniel Cherny

West Indies coach Andre Coley has called on cricket's leadership to put up or shut up when it comes to saving the Test format globally, while floating the idea of four-day Tests in a bid to make it more appetising to players.

The Windies have been widely written off for the Frank Worrell Trophy series, which begins in Adelaide on Wednesday.

Having not beaten in Australia in a Test series in more than three decades, and not even won a Test against the Aussies in more than 20 years, the Windies have picked a squad that contains seven uncapped players.

Former captain Jason Holder and all-rounder Kyle Mayers have opted out of the series to prioritise franchise commitments elsewhere.

Such is life for the former Test powerhouse. The region can still produce world-class cricketers but can't pay them enough to always choose Test cricket.

It is not a new phenomenon for the Windies but they may merely have been the canary in the coalmine for the format given South Africa has named a massively depleted squad to tour New Zealand this month after its board told stars to put the Indian-backed SA20 competition first.

Australian cricket leaders have discussed the idea of setting up a global funding pool to ensure Test cricket remains viable for more than just a handful of nations.

Coley said talk was one thing but actions were another. "If we have enough powerbrokers around world cricket who are keen on ensuring that Test cricket continues to be played and becomes a viable option for players, young players, then those people have to voice those opinions and in the lobbies and rooms that can make those decisions, and decisions are made accordingly," Coley said.

"It comes down to the people who make the decisions around who can influence decisions.

"If they really believe that Test cricket needs to continue, then find a way to get it done."

Marsh ends his innings

DANIEL CHERNY

Shaun Marsh feels a sense of relief and sadness as he retires from professional cricket after almost a quarter of a century.

The West Australian great announced on Sunday that the Big Bash League match between his Melbourne Renegades and the Sydney Thunder on Wednesday night would be the last of a career that started some 23 summers ago.

Marsh, 40, played the last of his 38 Tests and 73 one-day internationals in 2019.

Shaun Marsh.

He kept playing domestically for WA before retiring at the end of last season.

Marsh continued into this BBL season with the Renegades after he moved from the Perth Scorchers in 2019.

Having overcome calf issues, his form has not diminished.

The left-hander has posted three half-centuries from five innings this season, including an unbeaten 64 to lead the Renegades to victory against the Melbourne Stars on Saturday night at Marvel Stadium.

However, the Renegades' underwhelming season has contributed to Marsh's decision, which he made last week, to pull up stumps on his decorated career.

"I probably knew at the start of the season that it was more than likely going to be my last year but there was no sort of decision made up until probably after our second-last game ago," Marsh said.

"We had a nine-day break and went home with the family and just felt right then that this was going to be it.

"It's probably a sense of relief but also some sadness knowing that it's all over – sort of leave knowing that you gave everything and it's the right time to walk away."

Though his Australian career was a mixed bag, he was proud to have reached the highest level and said he could now fully appreciate how special it had been to play international cricket with his brother.

Asked how he would like to be remembered as a player, Marsh was reflective.

"I think just being a good person," he said. "I've always just tried to be myself."

Finch and Warner to rekindle partnership

Ben Horne

Aaron Finch recently sat beside Mick Jagger but the words Start Me Up will have a different connotation on Monday night.

Rock 'n' roll royalty will be replaced by kings of cricket in the Fox Cricket commentary box on Monday night at the MCG when Finch rekindles his long-term partnership with David Warner.

The dynamic duo opened the batting in 119 innings together for Australia and the success they had as an ODI pairing is eclipsed only by Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden.

Finch walked into a Kolkata restaurant during the World Cup in India to discover Rolling Stones maestro Jagger sitting at the table next to he and fellow Fox Cricket commentator Mark Howard.

After some encouragement from Howard, Finch plucked up the courage to go over and introduce himself to massive cricket fan and legendary frontman Jagger.

He won't need to dig quite as deep to start a new connection with Warner, who he has known since he was about 14 years of age.

"Hopefully you hear that stuff and you can ask them questions about when they first met each other and when they first played," Howard said before Warner and Finch make their off-field opening debut in the call of the Melbourne Stars versus Hobart Hurricanes match at the MCG.

"They will be forthright, which is fantastic.

"I think they can bring unbelievable insight because every batter and bowler out there they have played against, which is outstanding."

Teammates turned co-commentators Aaron Finch and David Warner.

Barbora Krejcikova celebrates during her win.

Relief for Krejcikova after win

Former French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova survived a scare to reach the second round of the Australian Open on Sunday, beating Japanese wildcard Mai Hontama 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

The Czech ninth seed, who triumphed at Roland Garros in 2021, struggled with her serve on Margaret Court Arena and was broken six times in total by her 122nd-ranked opponent.

But she dug deep when trailing 3-1 in the second set after losing the opener and eventually turned the tables.

Hontama, 24, playing in just her second Grand Slam, broke twice in the opening set to take a grip on the match.

There were multiple breaks in the second set but Krejcikova produced a powerful forehand winner to hold in the ninth game and edge ahead 5-4, seizing her chance to level the match.

The Czech player, 28, needed a medical time-out when 3-2 up in the decider, receiving heavy strapping to her foot and ankle.

But she showed no signs of discomfort as she returned to the court, conjuring a crucial break in a long eighth game to leave her on the brink of victory, which she sealed when Hontama went long with a forehand.

Krejcikova said she was relieved to get through a "difficult match", which lasted 2 hours and 30 mins.

"I just tried to stay in the match," she said.

"In the second set I was down.

"But I never let go and I never gave up."

DEMON'S SPEED TEST

Big-serving Canadian looms as tough first-round foe

Callum Dick

One of the fastest serves in tennis history stands between Alex de Minaur and an Australian Open second round berth.

With an official top speed of 249.9km/h, the missile that is Milos Raonic's serve has tormented the ATP Tour for more than a decade – and the Aussie No. 1 is its next target.

He's beaten Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Andy Murray while in their primes and gave Novak Djokovic one of the sternest tests of his run to the 2021 Australian Open title.

De Minaur might have chuckled when he saw his name placed next to the world No. 317.

Raonic, a former Wimbledon runner-up and five-time Australian Open quarter-finalist, is hardly the cushy opening round draw oft expected for one of the top seeds.

After almost two years away from the tour battling injury, the 33-year-old Canadian is back up and running and ready to break Aussie hearts.

The former world No. 3 has saved his best tennis for Melbourne Park, where he boasts a 34-11 record and has reached the fourth round or better on eight occasions.

One man who knows how dangerous Raonic can be is recently-retired Aussie star, John Millman. Millman rates Raonic as the most difficult serve he faced throughout his career. In one of their clashes at Wimbledon, the Canadian "nearly put me into the stands," he said. "I went up to near the baseline and he put one through me which nearly made me fall over."

But Millman believes de Minaur's skill set makes him a match-up nightmare for Raonic, not the other way around. "I used to hate having to face those big servers, especially early in a tournament," Millman said. "Sometimes the game can get taken out of your hands. The good news for Australian fans is that last year, Alex was the fifth-best returner on tour."

Last year, only the current world top four – Djokovic, Alcaraz, Medvedev and Sinner – boasted better return games than de Minaur.

Between 2012 and 2019, Raonic won 91 per cent of his service games. That figure would have comfortably led the ATP Tour last year.

But the Canadian is only nine games into his comeback, while de Minaur is coming off a trio of top 10 scalps – including Djokovic – at the United Cup.

De Minaur and Raonic open the Monday night session on Rod Laver Arena from 7pm.

Australia's Adam Walton reaches for a backhand during his Australian Open loss to Italy's Matteo Arnaldi in Melbourne. Picture: Darrian Traynor/Getty Images

Italian job on Aussie sealed emphatically

Rebecca Williams

The debut grand slam of Australian wildcard Adam Walton is over after just one match following his straight-sets loss on the opening day at Melbourne Park.

The first local hope on court at the Australian Open, Walton made a strong start against Italian Matteo Arnaldi before falling 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 6-4 on Kia Arena.

Walton, 24, pushed Arnaldi in an opening-set tiebreak but the world No. 41 swept past the unseeded Australian in the second set. Arnaldi looked to be in control at 3-1 in the third set but faced resistance from Walton, who is ranked 176 in the world.

The Italian sealed his win with an ace to take his tally to 16-1 for the match, while he also had 57 winners to 21.

Arnaldi will face the winner of Alex de Minaur and Milos Raonic in the second round.

Sinner sees off spirited challenge

Fourth seed Jannik Sinner fired up his bid for a maiden Grand Slam title with a hard-fought straight-sets victory over Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Italian enjoyed a breakthrough 2023, winning his first Masters title, in Toronto, and making the championship match against Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals.

It sparked expectations that it is only a matter of time before he wins a major.

And Sinner came through a tough encounter at Melbourne Park to open his 2024 account, beating the 59th-ranked Dutchman 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

"My first match of the season and it means a lot to start off with a win," said Sinner, who reached his first Grand Slam semi-final at Wimbledon last year.

"The tournament is one where I would like to play as good as possible and hopefully I can show some more in the next round.

"Physically I feel good in good shape, the first round is never easy so I can be happy with today."

It was Sinner's first competitive match of the year after he opted against a warm-up tournament.

Italy's Jannik Sinner hits a return.

But he showed few signs of rust, breaking Van de Zandschulp's opening service game and powering through the first set in 46 minutes.

But the Dutchman, a former US Open quarter-finalist, refused to go quietly, hitting the ball so hard in the second set that his racquet strings snapped.

There was little between them as they battled to 5-5 before Van de Zandschulp netted a backhand to give the Italian the crucial break.

He then served out for a two-set lead.

Once again, the Dutchman put up resistance in the third, breaking to open up a 2-0 advantage.

But it was a temporary wobble by Sinner, who responded by breaking twice in succession and surged 4-2 clear and there was no way back.

At a career-high four in the world, Sinner also won titles last year in Montpellier, Vienna and Beijing.

He was also instrumental in helping Italy win the Davis Cup.

Djoker gets serious about Shelton row

Novak Djokovic has reignited his feud with US rising star Ben Shelton, calling the youngster "unsportsmanlike" in an interview with French newspaper L'Equipe.

They clashed at last year's US Open when, after a win, Djokovic imitated Shelton's trademark celebration.

At the time, Djokovic, who mimicked Shelton's "dialled in" phone call celebration then slammed down the phone, said he did it out of admiration. "I just love Ben's celebration," Djokovic said after his win last year. "I thought it was very original and I copied him. I stole his celebration."

Shelton's father Bryan was less impressed and suggested Djokovic's actions were designed to mock his son.

"He wanted to mock Ben at the end," Bryan Shelton said.

"It wasn't something he was doing just to copy Ben. It was to mock him."

Djokovic reopened the feud in his L'Equipe interview. "It was a reaction against him, he didn't behave properly, with respect, on court and before the match," the world No. 1 said. "If anyone places himself in the unsportsmanlike zone, I react."

The Chronicle
SPORT
thechronicle.com.au/sport

NEW FACE OF FUTSAL ON DOWNS

EAGER TO GROW: P29

ISSN 1321-7879
9 771321 787017

OFFICIAL TEAM PARTNER

GONE IN 63 SECONDS

BIG TRAIN DERAILED IN VEGAS

Lachlan Onions

It was meant to be the fight which put Toowoomba's Tom "Big Train" Nolan on the world stage, but instead it ended in agony.

Brazilian lightweight Nikolas Motta spoiled Nolan's UFC debut with a crushing first round TKO on Sunday (AEST) in just 63 seconds.

The Aussie fighter had beeen widely predicted to continue his unbeaten record.

STORY CONTINUED P29

Nikolas Motta of Brazil punches Tom Nolan of Australia in a lightweight victory in Las Vegas. Picture: Getty Images

JOHNSON SLAMS BANCROFT SNUB P28

ROOS OFF TO FAST START AT CUP P28